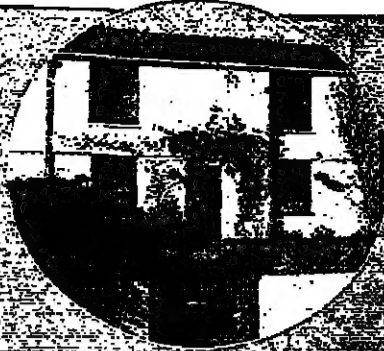


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Why do boys face daily danger?
page 15

SPORT ON 17 PAGES

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page 25



30p
EVERY WEEKDAY

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West offers refugees sanctuary

Airlift will take 100,000 Kosovans to safety

BY MICHAEL EVANS, PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER

THOUSANDS of ethnic Albanians are to be given temporary shelter in Britain and other Western countries after another 24 hours of mass exodus from Kosovo.

The airlift of refugees was one of a number of emergency measures announced yesterday. Others include a special sanctuary for 100,000 ethnic Albanians to be set up by the UN and Nato at Brazde in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Nato also intends to send up to 8,000 troops to Albania to help co-ordinate handling of the refugee crisis there.

The number of refugees earmarked for airlifting out of the region is likely to be at least 100,000. However, governments who have agreed to

national Development Secretary, who was in the region yesterday examining the requirements for helping the refugees in Albania and Macedonia.

The promise to airlift refugees to Europe, America and Canada also took many Whitehall ministries by surprise. The Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, two key ministries who will be involved in the new policy, appeared to know nothing about it until Downing Street made the announcement.

The decision came after increasingly alarming reports from Macedonia that the Government there could no longer cope with the influx.

Britain is expected to take about 10,000 refugees into hotels and other temporary accommodation, on top of the 9,000 Kosovan refugees already here. America is to take 20,000.

The Home Office is understood to be working on plans to set up reception centres in towns and cities across the country, and Jack Straw will discuss numbers with his European counterparts on Wednesday. Yesterday Downing Street would confirm only that "several thousand" would be allowed to come to Britain.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "Our top priority is to get these refugees back to their homes and enable them to rebuild their lives in a secure environment. The immediate requirement is to provide food and shelter."

In a newspaper article published only yesterday, Tony Blair said that the Government's aim was to avoid dispersing the Kosovo Albanians around Europe. Writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, he said: "Bosnia showed that is a policy of despair. Bosnia's refugees are now scattered across the continent. They will probably never return to their homes."

However, ministers denied there had been a U-turn, emphasising that the refugees would be taken only on a temporary basis. They would be given neither permanent homes nor political asylum.

One government source said the move sat easily with the efforts to get aid to the refugees in the region: "It's all about providing temporary help."

While Nato reiterated its intention of inflicting a sustained bombing campaign on Yugoslav military targets this week, member governments focused much of their energy on trying to resolve the humanitarian crisis.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Jackson, the British commander who would have



Armed police block the way as Albanian refugees from Kosovo stranded in no man's land at Blace beg for entry into Macedonia



Airlift confusion	2
PoW camps	3
Mercy flights	4
Roger Boyes	5
The churches' view	6
Clinton under pressure	7
Lessons of Vietnam	8
Belgrade defiance	9
Grace Bradberry	15
William Rees-Mogg	20
Peter Riddell	21
Leading article	21
Letters	21
Photograph	24

share the burden with Albania and Macedonia emphasised that the longer term objective remained to see them all return safely to their homes in Kosovo.

Julia Taft, America's Assistant Secretary of State, who came face to face with the human misery on the Macedonian border yesterday, described the airlift as a burden-sharing exercise, which would begin in the next few days.

The decision to fly refugees out of the region was a total reversal of Britain's previously stated policy which was to encourage the Albanians to stay in the region, to ensure that President Milosevic could not claim that his ethnic cleansing had succeeded.

That view was spelt out last week by Clare Short, the Inter-



'Ethnic cleansing is leading to the crucifixion of Kosovo. Military action is recognition that the civilised world cannot stand by and accept that evil should triumph'

— Dr George Carey, page 6

weather allows more operations.

Washington confirmed that it was deploying Apache attack helicopters to the region, although no decision has yet been made about whether to use them in Operation Allied Force. The Apaches are armed with Hellfire anti-tank missiles which could target Serb armour in Kosovo.

The American aircraft carrier, *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, also arrived in the Adriatic, providing another 75 aircraft for use in the campaign, and another 13 American F117 Stealth fighters landed in Germany yesterday.

The decision to send Apache helicopters was seen as a potentially risky option, because of the need to operate low-flying attacks to hit Yugoslav tanks and artillery, making the air crews vulnerable.

There were also indications yesterday that US forces in Macedonia might be preparing to fire multiple launch rockets over the border against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo, although permission would have to be sought from the government in Skopje.

A meeting of the Contact Group has been arranged for Wednesday to review ways of finding a political solution to the crisis in Kosovo.

led Nato's proposed 28,000-man peace implementation force in Kosovo had there been a settlement, was authorised yesterday to take charge of the relief operation. And top UN and EU officials met Nato ambassadors at the alliance's Brussels headquarters last night to co-ordinate plans.

Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that allied soldiers were already providing accommodation for 20,000 refugees in makeshift tent cities.

The proposal to create a sanctuary in Macedonia to ac-

commodate 100,000 refugees was put forward by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. It will be run by the UN and Nato at Brazde. Senior Foreign Office sources said that the object was to give the Albanians somewhere to go as they fled the "killing grounds".

After another weekend of sustained bombing, which included more strikes on barracks, bridges, fuel depots and oil refineries, there were further moves yesterday to boost the firepower available for the air campaign as the improved

INSIDE

Lockerbie handover

A group of Arab diplomats arrived in Libya to oversee the handing over to the UN of the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing. The UN's chief legal counsel will then fly the two men to The Netherlands where their trial under Scottish law will begin in the next few days. Page 12

Post Office buying spree

The Post Office is planning to spend up to £1.5 billion taking over rival postal businesses overseas. The plan may anger consumer groups which want the organisation to improve domestic services. Page 48

'No sellout'

Republican leaders sought to placate grass roots fears of a Sinn Féin sellout by describing the latest Anglo-Irish demands for the IRA to disarm as dangerous and provocative. Page 10

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 42, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	22, 25
PETER RIDDELL	20
ARTS	18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE	254
COURT & SOCIAL	22
LAW REPORT	42
FASHION	16, 17
BUSINESS	42, 54, 48

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Henman lifts home hearts

Tim Henman outfoxed Todd Martin 4-6 7-5 6-3 7-6 (7-4) in an enthralling Davis Cup match yesterday to bring Great Britain level 2-2 with one singles still to play.

With both men increasingly exhausted after the previous two days, Henman went for his shots and managed to turn around the world group first-round match that appeared a lost cause. He also proved to the ecstatic 9,500 crowd in Birmingham that he can respond to the most intense pressure.

Henman's match hinged on a questionable line call after Martin had broken for a 4-3 lead in the second set and was leading 30-15. A Martin volley was called out to the annoyance of the American team.

Martin, still gnawing at what he saw as a hometown decision, allowed Henman to break back and the balance of the match suddenly shifted. Henman won seven of the next eight games and Martin was mentally a beaten man.

"To be frank I think the

match turned on a questionable call and then the crowd started to roar," Henman said. "I think it was in, but it just goes to show how something so small can change a match. Suddenly it was 4-4 and I'm back in there."

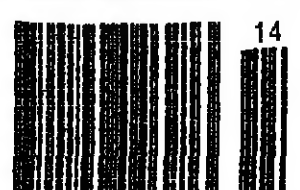
Martin, one of the most unperturbable men in tennis, agreed the disputed call had been vital although he was angry with himself that he had allowed it to distract him.

Henman's tie, page 25



Tim Henman after his Davis Cup win yesterday

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BALKANS WAR: REFUGEE CRISIS

US airlift plan for refugees sows confusion

CONFUSION last night surrounded the planned evacuation of 100,000 Kosovan refugees to Europe and the US.

The rescue operation was announced yesterday by President Clinton's emissary, Julia Taft, after she saw the misery of the thousands stranded on a muddy riverbank on the Macedonian frontier.

The US assistant secretary of state called the ambitious airlift "a burden-sharing exercise", adding: "It will begin in the next few days and we will take large numbers in temporary asylum until they can go home in safety."

After wading through ankle-deep mud to speak to refugees she said: "American, British and other governments will announce the exact numbers they are prepared to take at a summit in Brussels on Tuesday."

Her announcement clearly caught British officials by surprise as they thought they had succeeded at the weekend in persuading the Skopje Government to allow the refugees a sanctuary in Macedonia.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, persuaded the authorities to let British troops build a "tent city" at Braze, four miles from the squalor of the makeshift refugee camp at the Blace border post.

Emma Bonino, the European Union aid Commissioner, directly criticised plans to fly refugees to distant temporary shelters and predicted horrendous practical problems.

"How do you choose 10,000 refugees?" she asked. "How do you take them away? How do you airlift 50,000 people? It made more sense to pay neighboring countries to provide shelter."

The Brussels meeting tomorrow will consider plans for distributing at least 100,000 of the refugees among the 15 EU member states. Britain would take 10,000, Germany 40,000, Greece 5,000 and Norway 6,000. In addition Turkey is to

Allies disagree over tactics for dealing with disaster, writes

Daniel McGrory in Skopje

accept 20,000, Canada 5,000 and the United States 20,000. Other countries have offered to take unspecified numbers.

Nato is determined that the refugees should eventually go home. "The idea is not to have a new refugee population floating around Europe," Jamie Shea, Nato's spokesman, said.

More than 300,000 Kosovo Albanians have now been expelled by Serbian forces since the Nato offensive began. Nato estimates that at the current rate, President Milosevic could empty the province of its 1.8 million ethnic Albanians within two weeks.

British charities yesterday agreed that efforts should be made to house the refugees in neighbouring Balkan states before sending them to Britain and other European countries.

An Oxfam spokeswoman said: "We welcome any move to help refugees, but taking them away from the region should only be done if there is no other way of looking after them. Our view is that in the long term the refugees should be able to return home. Therefore it is best that they should be housed as close to Kosovo as possible."

Save the Children also expressed concern about "dis-

placing" large numbers of refugees. A spokesman said: "Staying close by is preferable and we are trying to give the help and support needed on to enable this to happen."

"There are always issues about displacing people from their networks of support, such as family and friends, so removing them to different countries in Western Europe is not necessarily the ideal option. Our understanding from working with these refugees is they want support in returning home as soon as possible."

Hundreds of British troops meanwhile laboured to finish the tented camp at Braze. The first 2,000 refugees arrived in six buses last night. They were registered by Macedonian officials and given their first hot meal in more than a week, prepared by British Army chefs.

The tented sanctuary, built on wasteland beside a factory on the main road from the border, can shelter up to 100,000 refugees. Nato troops are building five other camps inside Macedonia.

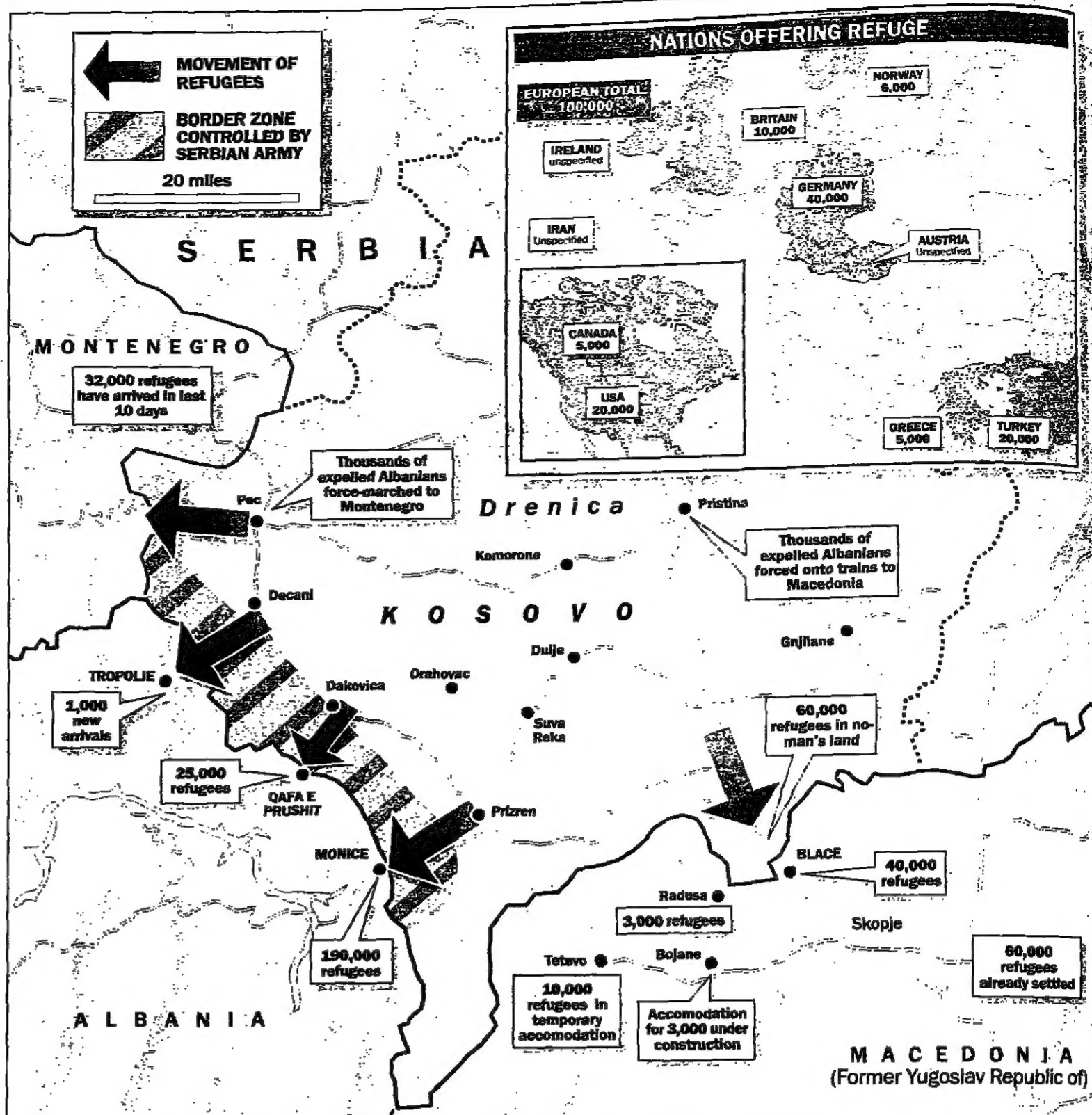
The British view is that the refugees should stay here, fed and policed by British troops, until diplomatic settlement means they can be repatriated.

However, Macedonian officials said yesterday they regard the new tent city as a "transit camp". One senior official said: "The refugees can be registered, given medical help, sheltered and fed but only till another country can accommodate them. We can't."

The Macedonians say they only allowed the construction of the camp to facilitate the evacuation operation.

Clare Short, the overseas aid Minister, seemed confused about details of the evacuation plan when she arrived in Macedonia yesterday. Asked about the numbers Britain was taking, she said: "We're trying to help but as I've only just got here ask me when I leave."

She is due to visit Blace later today. By then she will have



Cook accused of lying over crisis

JOHN BRUTON, the former Irish Prime Minister, last night accused Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, of not telling the truth about the refugee crisis prompted by attacks on Yugoslavia.

Mr Bruton, the leader of Ireland's Fine Gael main opposition party, said Mr Cook was "simply not making a truthful statement when he said no one could have foreseen a refugee crisis on the scale of the one now happening in the Balkans following the Nato decision to bomb Yugoslavia while refusing to commit ground troops under any circumstances".

The former Dublin premier added: "He is wrong. The present refugee crisis was not only foreseeable, it was foreseen. It is profoundly dishonest to pretend otherwise."

Mr Bruton said he had predicted the crisis himself before the bombing, and pointed to a prediction made in Berlin by the Swedish opposition leader and former Bosnia mediator Carl Bildt, who forecast one million refugees within two weeks of the start of the bombing.

Mr Bruton said: "The whole disastrous operation was driven by the something-must-be-done school of diplomacy, generated by television images and image-conscious politicians."

"Kosovo is in Europe. It is a European problem. The vagaries of United States public opinion should not be dictating either what wars are started in Europe, or how they are conducted."

Mr Bruton called for a four-day pause in the bombing to coincide with next weekend's Orthodox Christian Easter, and said that a European figure not involved in the Nato decision should be requested to seek a negotiated settlement in that period.

Paris: France cannot accept "massive" numbers of Kosovo refugees, preferring the despatch of humanitarian aid to help them out in countries bordering Kosovo, a government source said. "The essential thing is to ensure that the Kosovans can return to their homeland," the source said. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, was said to be dealing with humanitarian matters.

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met government ministers, charities and Nato chiefs about how best to deal with the crisis. A column of another 80,000 refugees said to stretch more than 40 miles is heading towards the Macedonian frontier where troops are under orders to stop them crossing.

It was the plight of these refugees that caused the Americans to make their sudden announcement yesterday. Mrs Taft was adamant the airlift would begin today using returning empty aid flights. "We all have to help and I have pledges from many governments. This is only temporary asylum. We want these people to go home."

She said the Americans and others are considering chartering ships to move the huge numbers involved. One senior US official visiting Macedonia said: "There has been some arm-twisting on both sides in the past 24 hours. You will see Skopje getting substantial aid but the refugees need help. So call it a ransom demand if you wish, but something has to be done."

British charities have been inundated with offers of support, both financial and practical, with many people offering free accommodation. John Rubenstein, a lawyer with two sons, was disappointed after ringing the British Army, offering a room in his family home in Wandsworth, south-west London. He said: "After seeing distressing news reports of the thousands stranded by the Macedonian border closure, I felt that I had to do something to help. The Macedonians are saying that if they can only come through if they have somewhere to go. But when I rang the Army, they could not advise me what to do."

Mr Rubenstein, whose grandfather took in a Jewish refugee in London during the Second World War, said: "I am sure there are hundreds like me. The government should draw up a list of volunteers."

Yvonne Gleeson, of west London, who rang The Times asking for advice on the best way to help, said: "I have a big house with empty rooms."

However, charities urged people to pledge money rather than accommodation as they prepared to launch an appeal tomorrow. The Disasters Emergency Committee is to make television and newspaper appeals on behalf of 12 aid agencies, including the British Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children, Help the Aged and Christian Aid.

Individual appeals by the British Red Cross and Oxfam launched in the middle of last week have already raised £86,000. A spokeswoman for Christian Aid said: "We have had about 900 calls but none of the charities has been going full tilt until now because we wanted to see what the level of need would be."

Small local appeals have also been established, such as the East Midlands Kosovo Appeal set up on Friday by the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottingham. Rome: Italy, which already has a sizeable population of Albanian immigrants, has made clear it would prefer refugees to stay in Albania and has set up refugee camps in Kukës and Durrës. It has prepared refugee camps along the southern coast, but has argued that refugees should stay as close as possible to their homeland.

Leading article & Letters, page 21

Video footage strengthens the West's resolve to end violence

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THESE shocking video pictures of Albanians killed by the Serbs in Kosovo on the day the Nato bombing campaign started reinforced the alliance's determination yesterday to end the violence in the Yugoslav province.

The video, taken covertly by an ethnic Albanian, Milutin Belanica, and shown on BBC television at the weekend, revealed the gruesome death of about 100 men from the village of Krusa-E-Madhe, near Pec on March 24.

Of the 19 bodies shown in the two-minute film, many appeared to have been shot in the back of the neck. Mr Belanica, said 100 men, most aged between 20 and 30, had been murdered.

Doug Henderson, the Armed Forces Minister, said yesterday: "The reports of atrocities took a gruesome turn with the film shown by the BBC about the grisly mas-



The body of an Albanian in a secretly made film

sacre of 19 men in the village of Krusa-E-Madhe."

He added: "That film shows in vivid terms the barbarity of Serbian troops and police, and explains all too clearly why thousands of people are fleeing Kosovo."

Mr Belanica, who smuggled the video across the Kosovo border into Albania, told the BBC: "They were killed

one by one. A group of Serbs were on the top of the hill. Others came from behind. Our men were captured and the Serbs killed them one after the other."

He added: "I have done this so that my son, my grandson, the next generation, will never forget what the Serbs have done to the Albanian people."

and elderly in the village had been taken away, and some of the men had tried to escape but were shot. Mr Belanica said. He produced a list of 26 names of the men who had been killed.

He told the BBC that he had hidden for a week before smuggling the video out of Kosovo. Aid call: Alex Salmond last night called for a massive increase in humanitarian aid to save the lives of Kosovan Albanian refugees. The Scottish National Party leader said Nato had an "inescapable responsibility" to step up the aid effort and called for as much to be spent on humanitarian relief as on the bombing campaign.

Mr Salmond provoked fury by criticising the campaign in a television broadcast last week. At a function of Scots Asians for Independence in Paisley, he called for a "humanitarian front" to be opened and reiterated his claim that the bombing campaign was counter-productive.

Meeting families detained in POW camps

fish oil won't expect Sko

سكنة من الاصل

BALKANS WAR: MACEDONIAN NIGHTMARE

Fleeing families detained in PoW camps



Daniel McGrory in Radusa witnesses the plight of fenced-in ethnic Albanians refused entry by Macedonia

THEY thought they had found sanctuary after fleeing Kosovo, but 1,000 refugees were last night held at gunpoint in what they described as a hill-top prison camp.

Hanging on to the wire fencing, they pleaded with Macedonian soldiers to let them contact relatives willing to shelter them, but their cries were ignored. Two men who climbed over the wire were beaten by troops in riot gear who threw them, bleeding, back into the compound, shouting they would shoot anyone else trying to escape.

In the past week these men — like the other thousand occupants of this camp in Radusa — have been forced from their homes by armed Serb gunmen, herded onto trains, made to walk five miles through minefields and then stranded at a muddy ravine at the frontier without food or shelter.

Rudi Fukta, 36, pointed to the Macedonian soldiers, saying: "Is this the world's idea of helping the Kosovan refugees, to point machineguns at us in a prison camp?"

The occupants at Radusa were given no choice in where they were taken after they were moved from the border at the weekend. All yesterday friends and family waited at

the gates of the main camp hoping their relatives behind the wire could go home with them. Some offered bribes to the camp guards. As darkness fell, almost all left disappointed, promising to return today with food and clothes.

Feriz Dinarici was not prepared to wait another night to free his two-year-old daughter. Whispering to her, he pushed the frightened child under the sharp wire fence where his sister was waiting on the other side. Ajita, aged two, screamed as the wire scratched her face and tried to hold onto the fence shouting she did not want to be parted from her father. Her aunt had put her hand across Ajita's mouth to stifle the child's cries, fearing it would alert the police guard, who was swapping cigarettes just yards away.

Touching his daughter's face, Mr Dinarici told her: "Go, go now and be safe. I will see you soon." As the crowd helped to smuggle her away he sank to his knees in the mud, weeping uncontrollably.

His wife had died six months ago, he said. "My child is all I have. Our home has gone, all our possessions are lost, and I don't know when or if I will leave here."

The thousand Kosovans

taken by bus along the narrow path to this tented camp were not told where they were going. Many had been separated from family in the chaos at the border and when they arrived in darkness at Radusa, they waited all night in the hope they would be reunited.

Mimola Huti, 18, last saw her father being hit by a police truncheon as he struggled to help her and her sister, Besa, 16, to clamber up the muddy slope to where a bus was already pulling away.

Miss Huti explained she had a family in Skopje and Turkey who could accommodate them. "So why are we humiliated like this in a prison? There is one toilet for 600 women and children. We only get bread and cartons of milk."

"There's no electricity or running water. We have to collect our water in plastic bottles and then wash in the open. We sleep on the grass which is so wet it soaks through the sleeping bags. It is degrading and unnecessary when most of us

have places to go. No one will tell us what has happened to our father. If he is still at the frontier, he cannot last there much longer, as he has a heart condition."

Twenty-three refugees died in the mud on the Blace frontier over the weekend, including one woman as she gave birth to her first child. Ten other children were born in

'Is this the world's idea of helping us, pointing machineguns at us?'

the middle of this squalor on the riverside as relatives tried to find a scrap of clean blanket or cloth to keep the newborn infants warm.

Two hundred yards away from where they were sinking in ankle-deep mud, cardboard boxes of blankets and sleeping bags were left in the rain by the roadside.

One exhausted Red Cross

medic described how he tried to reach a woman who had gone into labour as a soldier lashed out at him with a truncheon.

Khelal Aziri said: "He kept hitting me on the chest and I put up my arms to protect my head. The woman was screaming and the crowd were pushing her forward towards me. She was trying to hold on to

her other children, who could have been no more than three years old.

"People are also losing their mind in that field. We know at least four have tried to kill themselves. This is an inhuman way to treat people who have suffered enough."

One man knelt by the stretcher where his father lay dead. He spent an hour trying

to brush the mud from the blanket that only partly covered the old man's body as a succession of voluntary aid workers walked past him, ignoring his plight. "How can they allow a man to escape the Serbs and then die in a friendly country?"

Throughout the day a succession of diplomats, local politicians, aid organisers and other VIPs came to see the disgrace of Blace for themselves. They all left shaking their heads, saying something must be done urgently but could not say exactly what.

President Clinton's emissary, Julia Taft, a US co-ordinator for refugee relief, walked in her boots to the edge of the crowd and told them: "Milosevic is to blame for this and we and Nato are here to help you." When it was apparent she had no food or drink to offer, nor could she help those at the front of this sea of faces to be allowed into Macedonia, the crowd turned away in disappointment.

Sheets or brown plastic sheeting were strung out between the few trees that had not been cut down for firewood. Women queued in their thousands to wash clothes, drink and defecate in the same stream.

The few health workers at Blace appealed last night for more water tanks, warning cholera could take a grip among the 40,000 refugees here, some of whom had been waiting for four days. On a railway track behind them, another 60,000 refugees are said to be trapped in no man's land. A cordon of Macedonian soldiers are preventing any aid workers reaching these forgotten fugitives.

The aid operation is still woefully slow, with Western charities complaining that authorities in Skopje are preventing them from launching the massive supply line needed to help those stranded at the frontier and those still being expelled from Kosovo. One British charity gave up yesterday and sent

30,000 packed meals it had to Albania instead.

Yugoslav security forces meanwhile kept up the pressure on Macedonia's borders yesterday, driving another trainload of refugees at gunpoint to join tens of thousands in a sea of mud and excrement.

Witnesses said the security forces fired guns over the heads of ethnic Albanian refugees as they were forced to walk from the train about two miles from Blace, a border post about a half-hour's drive from Skopje, the capital of Macedonia.

Yannis Behrakis, a Reuters photographer, was one of a handful of journalists who managed to bypass heavy police cordons and get into the refugee field where about 50,000 people are stranded in a no man's land of misery and filth. "It is crazy," Mr Behrakis said. "The ground is covered with human excrement and they (the refugees) are fighting for food."

British aid workers warned to expect Skopje hostility

BRITISH aid workers are being warned not to drive their vehicles after dark in Skopje as the backlash begins in Macedonia over the thousands of refugees pouring across its borders.

A car owned by one British charity was vandalised and a volunteer was threatened by a gang of youths in the capital at the weekend.

A senior British aid official said: "The mood is polarising in this country about what to do with the refugees, and I fear we and Nato will feel the effect of it very soon."

The six British charities here say the Macedonian authorities are being "deliberately obstructive" in registering aid organisations to help in the humanitarian crisis.

Children's Aid Direct waited so long they decided to divert the 37,000 food parcels meant for Macedonia to Albania instead.

Government ministers insisted last night Macedonia will take no more refugees. More than 115,000 are believed to be in the country already and another 60,000 are trapped in no man's land in minefields close to the frontier. Thousands more are still being expelled from Kosovo.

Local Albanian leaders accused the Skopje Govern-

Albanian leaders in Macedonia say the authorities are blackmailing the West, Daniel McGrory writes

ment of using the refugees as ransom to get millions in Western aid.

Arben Jafare, leader of the Democratic Party of the Albanians, which is part of the ruling coalition, said Albanian families here could accommodate at least 100,000 refugees, many of whom are relatives.

He complained that only Albanian schools had been closed in order to be used as temporary shelters and that the Government had gone back on a plan to use gymnasia and the national football stadium after protests from its Slav supporters.

Ministers ruled that in future the refugees would go where they were told and be held in camps until other countries accepted them.

The Slav parties argue that if Macedonia allows an open border the delicate ethnic mix of the country will be violently upset. Radmilla Kiprijanova, the Deputy Prime Minister, said at the weekend: "The refugees will disturb public order and cause the economic collapse of the state and threaten

our political security." Police are investigating whether a shooting in the capital at the weekend was related to the growing ethnic rivalry.

Albanians already make up nearly 40 per cent of the population. One government official said: "If 250,000 or more come, as some estimates expect, then in a population of two million it is bound to cause upset."

The language being used by ministers is increasingly inflammatory. Pavel Trajanov, the Internal Affairs Minister, said one reason for strict border controls was that fighters from the Kosovo Liberation Army were trying to find sanctuary posing as refugees. He said the refugees were carrying diseases that Albania has eradicated. He then hinted the Government might ban demonstrations over the treatment of the refugees.

Slav commentators described the country as being on a "war footing" as military reserves were called up in a general mobilisation. The Government is worried that if

an independent Kosovo is established in any eventual diplomatic settlement, the majority Albanians in western Macedonia will elect to join their kinsmen.

"We will not allow our state to fragment as the rest of Yugoslavia has done, with bloody consequences," a senior government source said. "Our economy is fragile and we can't afford this influx."

The number of unemployed is more than 300,000, though the Albanians say their communities suffer worst.

US diplomats visiting Macedonia at the weekend say the Government is looking for substantial aid packages and help with its existing debts. The Government has asked the EU for a large loan, saying: "We don't need food supplies, we need money."

Ministers were reluctant to allow Nato to get involved in the humanitarian relief operation, fearing that this might provoke the Serbs.

There was criticism of Nato's air attacks after reports that two stray Harrier missiles had fallen on two border villages in the past 72 hours.

Nato was accused of showing "a very unprofessional attitude to this problem" by Aleksandar Tezmitrov, the Foreign Minister. Nato chiefs in Skopje say they are investigating the stray missiles.

□ Tirana: Albania is willing to accept up to 100,000 Kosovo refugees on the Macedonian border, provided it is given the resources to look after them. Otto Schily, Germany's Interior Minister, said yesterday: "The Albanian Government is willing to take in a contingent of up to 100,000 on condition that the international community guarantees the necessary support," he told reporters while visiting a refugee camp here. "Albania cannot do it on its own."

Herr Schily, speaking after meeting Pandeli Majko, the Albanian Prime Minister, said it might be necessary to provide financial support to the Government as well as aid supplies.

"I can't decide that off the cuff here, but basically we will have to help in this way as well," he said. (Reuters)



Refugees waiting on a bus at the Macedonian border village of Blace, where about 50,000 people are being kept isolated in makeshift camps with scant supplies

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BALKANS WAR: THE AID OPERATION

Mercy flights start to reach border victims

AMERICAN and French helicopters arrived in Albania yesterday, carrying emergency aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees whose exodus from Kosovo threatens to overwhelm local authorities.

The aircraft will establish an air bridge in a belated attempt to bring food and shelter to about 200,000 exhausted and terrified refugees. Yesterday they continued to pour through three border points into Albania, fleeing what NATO has called President Milosevic's attempt at "ethnic re-engineering".

Near Kukës, a border town in northeast Albania which has borne the brunt of the exodus, the first helicopters touched down with desperately needed food. About 1,200lb



The aid race is on against hunger, exposure and an increasing risk of dysentery, writes Sam Kiley in Kukës

of military rations were flown from Tirana airport, where the first planes bringing international humanitarian aid landed. The helicopters, which had been in Bosnia with the NATO-led stabilisation force, will bring 1.5 tonnes of aid a day to Kukës, linked to the rest of Albania by one crumbling road.

Stunned by the lack of planning by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Nato for a refugee

emergency when Nato began airstrikes two weeks ago, the Albanian Government has taken over co-ordination of an operation which will involve up to 8,000 Nato troops on Albanian territory.

"The UN could have predicted this disaster. We did. We didn't expect it to be so big, but it doesn't take a genius to see that if you start a war there will be refugees, especially as there was already 'ethnic cleansing' in Albania," said a

spokesman for the Tirana Government. He said his administration could cope only with the 200,000 people estimated to have fled into Albania so far. "We expect to get up to half a million, some say more.

There is no way we could cope with that," he said.

In Kukës, the administrative headquarters of the relief effort, the price of food and other basics has more than doubled. Local people as well

as the refugees face severe food shortages, and aid workers received the first reports of an outbreak of dysentery.

But for tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanians, the prospect of being held in a Nato ref-

ugee camp would be a luxury compared with what they have recently endured.

Last Friday at midnight Serbs came into the Dajkavica home of Susanna Sahia and ordered the men to separate

from the women. "They demanded money and threatened to shoot one of our men, or a baby. I paid them, and then they shot my husband," she said.

Dajkavica's original population of 120,000 had been swollen by about 50,000 displaced

people from earlier purges. With the latest Serb pogrom now into high gear, most have been forced to flee on foot south through the Morina border crossing or to negotiate a narrow mountain track through a minefield to the windswept and freezing crossing at Qafa e Prushit.

At the weekend refugees tramped to safety through the crossing at a rate of 90 per minute. The scale of the Serb ethnic cleansing and battles with what remains of the Kosovo Liberation Army could be gauged by the near-constant thump of artillery and mortars in the distance. Heavy cloud apparently prevented Nato from striking back at tanks and artillery which have been turned on civilian homes to hasten the exodus of Kosovo's 1.8 million ethnic Albani-

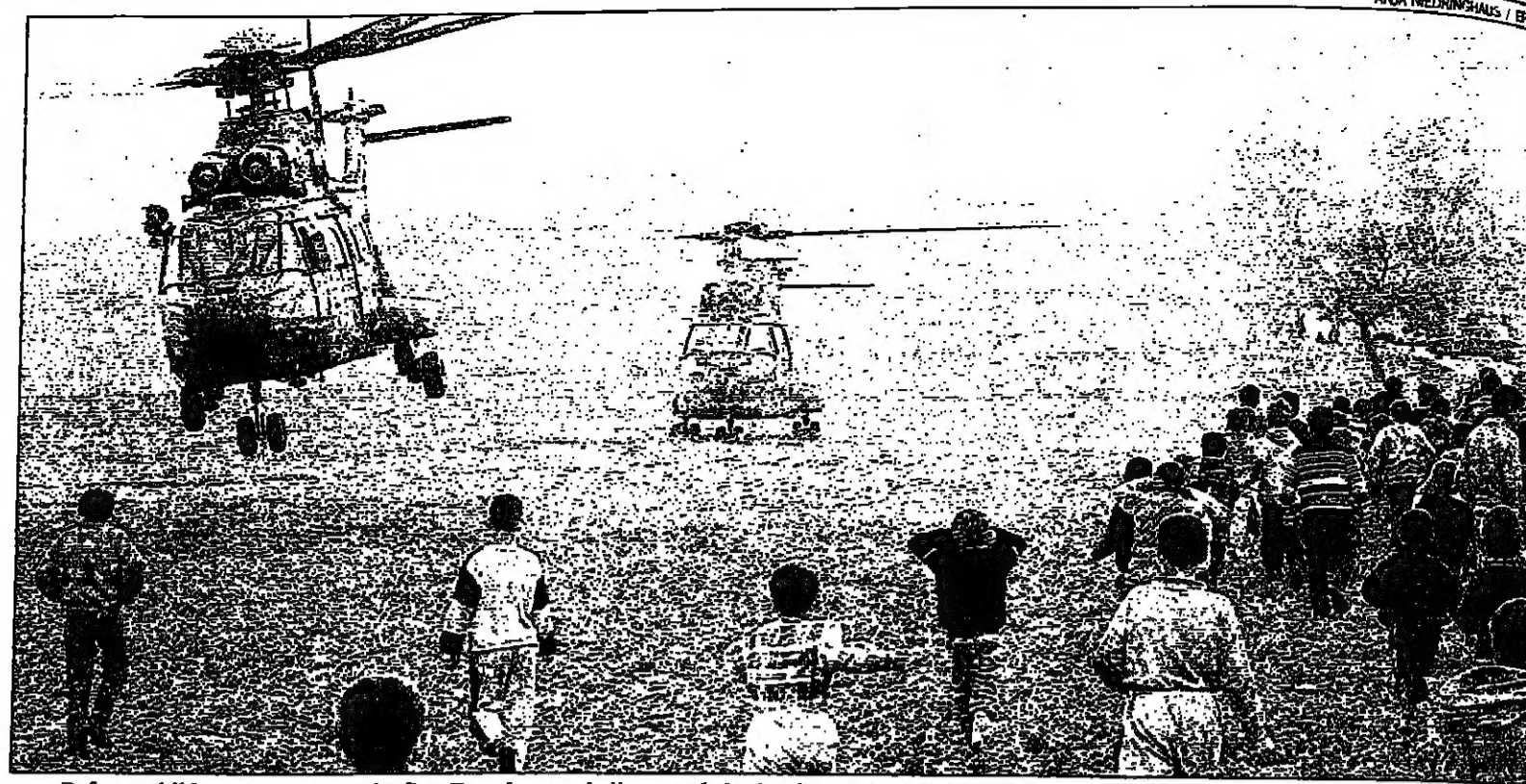
ans. Hoping to find food, shelter, and clean water, they were bitterly disappointed. The refugees arrived on the muddy pass and collapsed on soaking ground only to be told to keep walking. "Try to get to shelter by nightfall,"

was the best advice the handful of aid workers at the border could offer. Asim Dema, a typesetter, said that he had seen the bodies of 27 people in Dajkavica who had been burnt by the Serbs in their home. He said he kept his eyes

down as he walked past Serbs who put a young man against a wall and shot him. "The whole city is being burnt. We were given no time to pack. We were just thrown onto the street," he said as he continued to walk among a stream of people about ten miles long.

They marched under the gaze of a Serb position about 100 yards from the crossing. The elderly and disabled were carried in wheelbarrows.

Anna Annan, a spokeswoman for the British charity Christian Aid, acknowledged that the aid agencies had been caught off guard by the disaster. Yesterday she witnessed three deaths. A six-month-old baby died overnight on a freezing hillside along with her mother. An elderly man was found dead in his blankets.



Refugee children race to meet the first French army helicopters bringing humanitarian aid to makeshift camps at Kukës in Albania yesterday

"They wanted money, so I paid them. Then they shot my husband"

Montenegrins prepared to die for Serbia

Villagers show their support for Milosevic, writes

Janine di Giovanni

HERE in Raci, a remote village 25 miles outside Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital, there are no "traitors" and no "servants of Nato". This is hardcore Slobodan Milosevic country, and the simple people who live in this barren farming area say they would die for a united Serbia.

If the political graffiti etched on the walls are any indication, these people are more than extreme: "All Serbs united in Serbia", the slogan used throughout the "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is painted on buildings.

In a small café a portrait of Mr Milosevic hangs on the wall and underneath it, drinking a beer and painting his vision of the future of Montenegro is Rajko Rajkovic, a worker whose family has lived in Raci for generations. He is not a Montenegrin, he says fiercely, but a proud Serb. "And since the Nato bombing," he says, "I am even more of a Serb. Someone is going to stay in this country. And it will be the Serbs. They can't shoot every single one of us."

His wife, Divna, and his three children nod in agreement. Other villagers are openly hostile to foreigners after the Nato bombing of the bridges in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

Like many people, the villagers of Raci are preparing for a long war. If fighting broke out, it would be between those who are loyal to the pro-West President Djukanovic, and those who follow Mr Milosevic and his puppet Momir Bulatovic, Prime Minister of the federal Government, whose relatives come from this village. In the hills above Podgorica, there are more tanks and hardware moving on the roads and earlier in the week there were armed police snipers loyal to President Djukanovic on the rooftops of the parliament building.

There is also a sense of impending doom: everyone here is terrified of being drawn into the conflict that is taking place

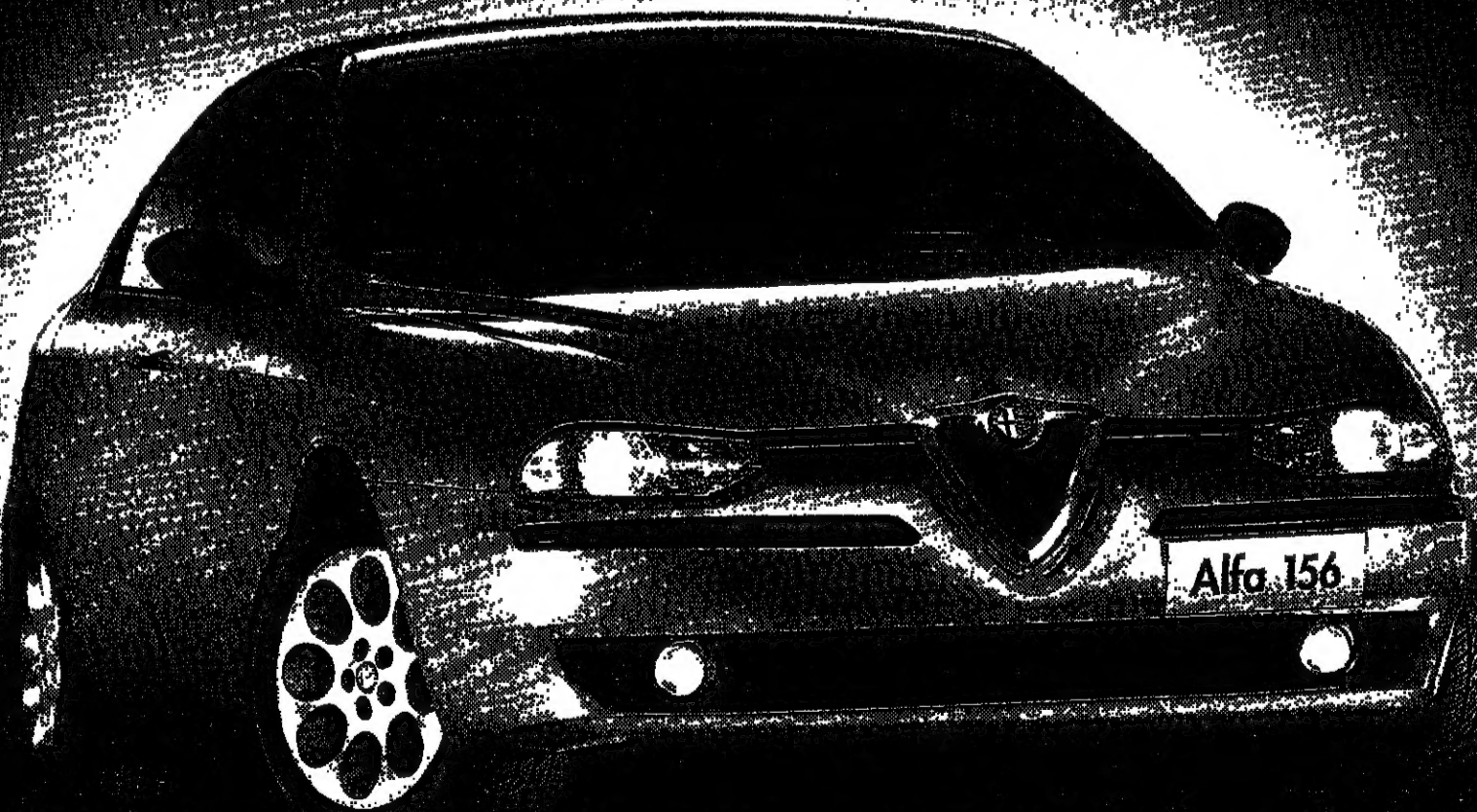
three hours from the capital. Already there has been an exodus of Muslim Montenegrins who fear what might happen should Mr Milosevic and his troops move in here as is expected. To ensure that does not happen, a stream of characters loyal to the Government have turned up. One of them, a distinguished 80-year-old general from Belgrade (who asked not to be identified for the sake of his family) arrived here ten days ago to fight if needed.

One of the more heroic fighters of the partisan war, he also comes from Cetinje and is fiercely proud of his Montenegrin roots. By the age of 21, he was plucked from his Young Communist group to lead a battalion of 340 men ambushing Italian tanks and fighting in the mountains of Bosnia during the bloody winter war of 1941-42.

"One rose quickly in those days," he says. "At that time, you became older and more clever with double speed. Events made us older." After the war, he became a National Hero, Yugoslavia's highest distinction, and was later a distinguished diplomat.

When the bombing began 11 days ago, he began to hear rumours of trouble brewing in Montenegro. He left his invalid wife, son and grandchildren and drove straight down.

"I said, I must go to my people, to my country," he says. "Okay, I'm old, but I can be of some use. I can give advice. I can even fight with the younger people if that is what they need," he adds.



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سكوتيا الاصل

Germans fear repetition of Bosnia burden

GERMANY, which took on more than 300,000 refugees during the Bosnian and Croatian conflicts, is bracing itself for a new wave of asylum seekers from Kosovo.

This time, though, it wants a strict share-out of refugees among European Union countries, with larger states such as Britain shouldering a bigger share of the burden.

The country's bishops used their Easter sermons yesterday to urge Germans to accept more refugees and not regard them as a burden. How many refugees are destined for Germany, and how quickly they will arrive, was still unclear. "We will take an appropriate number," Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, said at the weekend.

Officials said that probably about 10,000 Kosovans out of a total of 20,000 who will be allocated to the European Union. But these numbers are only vague target figures.

For about a year thousands of Kosovo Albanians have been crossing the Czech border into Germany, paying up

Kosovo crisis promises more asylum-seekers, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn

to £3,000 each to "people smugglers". These same groups are trawling the makeshift refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania: in return for life savings or for the firm promise of cash from relatives already in Germany, the smugglers undertake to remove whole families from their misery.

Four thousand Kosovans arrived in Germany last year by these illegal channels. Border police believe that many more will now come across the steep wooded paths of the Lausitz mountains bordering south-eastern Germany.

Otto Schily, the Interior Minister, arrived yesterday in Macedonia and is expected to make a recommendation to

the Bonn Government by the middle of the week.

He will probably propose large on-the-spot assistance — the German Air Force is already flying out 100 tonnes of food and medicine a day — immediate acceptance for a small number of medically urgent cases, and a larger quota to be worked out with other EU states.

Refugee lobby groups such as Pro Asyl want far more. "Since 200,000 Bosnians have returned home since the signing of the Dayton agreement, there is space available for the Kosovans," said a Pro Asyl spokesman.

The large influx of Bosnians in the early 1990s put an almost intolerable burden on the German political system. Many were put in improvised mobile homes on the fringes of east German villages.

This sparked resentment from the east Germans, who were unhappy at the way they have been treated by Bonn after unification. The friction contributed to the rise of radical neo-Nazi groups and racist



Bosnian orphans who spent four years in Germany are returned to Sarajevo at the weekend. Now Germans await a wave of Kosovan refugees

violence in the mid-1990s. Asylum rules were tightened by the Government and it is now not uncommon for refugees to be rejected immediately at the airport and sent back by the

same plane. Under the rules the asylum-seekers passing through a "safe country" — such as neighbouring Poland or the Czech Republic — must first claim asylum there.

At the Berlin summit ten days ago, European Union leaders had issued a warning that "on the eve of the 21st century Europe cannot tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe".

But instead of offering to welcome refugees with open arms the European leaders said they had a "duty to ensure the return [of refugees] to their homes". The aim was to keep

Kosovo refugees in the Balkans. This line has buckled somewhat because of the emotional power of television footage of the ragged refugees on the Kosovo border.



Srebrenica fugitives at a UN camp in 1995. A Bosnian influx to east Germany created tensions there

Pacifists take the lead in world of war

Germany's Easter marchers have been turning out in their thousands in the first serious anti-war protest since the Gulf War. Pacifism, it is said, is set for a revival, and the Bonn Government — made up of two parties with pacifist traditions — could soon be heading for trouble. Certainly, there is unease at the grassroots. At the weekend, the Greens pressed for a special party congress to set the limits of military engagement.

Yet there is unlikely to be a revolution. Wars can consolidate power. Gerhard Schröder looks stronger than at any time since winning the elections last autumn. He is flanked by his Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping — once regarded

as the utopianism of the 1960s has thus evolved from stone-throwing anti-Americanism to support for bomb-dropping American planes — a strange transition, but one with an internal logic embraced by the Green power elite, if not by their voters.

For both sides of the debate, the reference point is the Holocaust. The pro-war writers and politicians say Germany's tragedy was its failure to get rid of Hitler before he embarked on mass murder. The anti-war faction says Germany's debt to Europe — and especially to Serbia, which suffered terribly — is to keep its bombers on the ground.

The most fundamental problem, though, centres on the sincerity of the US commitment. It is that germ of doubt, nervously suppressed, that has the capacity to split open the Social Democratic and Green Parties. There is a cynical whisper going around Bonn, and it is this: what if America is merely using the Kosovo war as a rehearsal for the war it really wants to fight — the one that ousts Saddam Hussein?

As a foreign affairs article recently pointed out, the Clinton Administration has been considering the "roll back" options for Saddam. The policy mix looks uncannily like that currently being applied in the Balkans: airstrikes, funding, arming and training the opposition. Whatever political settlement emerges out of Kosovo, it will demand a decade of on-the-ground enforcement.

American concentration, my world-weary German friends suggest, may well waiver.

Colonel Gaddafi survived Ronald Reagan; Saddam survived George Bush. Perhaps, just perhaps, President Clinton would like to leave office as the man who finally toppled Saddam. If so, peace in the Balkans will become an almost exclusively European responsibility — a thought that terrifies the Germans.



BY ROGER BOYES

as a beardless failure but now tipped to be the next Nato Secretary-General — and by the Green Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer.

All three were once stern critics of US policy in Vietnam. Now, in taking Germany into its first war for over half a century, they look like the men who really run the country.

It is Herr Fischer's task to keep his party on side in the Social Democratic-Green Government. He does this by presenting Nato as the military wing of Amnesty International. A recent headline captured the spirit: "Dictators Look Out — The 1960s Are In Charge".

It is in the nature of the new crusaders that the European interest — peace on the continent — takes precedence over the rather ill-defined German national in-

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BALKANS WAR: THE CHURCHES' VIEW

Pope prays for lifeline

Pontiff's Easter plea is for 'a corridor of hope', writes Richard Owen in Rome



The Pope pauses yesterday during his Easter Mass

THE Pope, whose diplomatic initiatives to end the war in Kosovo have fallen on deaf ears, yesterday made an impassioned plea for Belgrade to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened so help could be sent to the mass of people stranded on the borders.

In his Easter message in St Peter's Square, he spoke of "a corridor of hope" amid "the din of war, the whistle of shells and the fire of bombs".

Giving his traditional *Urbi Et Orbi* address, the Pope, 78, appeared deeply troubled by what he called "this tragic spectacle of hatred and violence". He spoke under sunny skies on a warm spring day to a crowd of more than 150,000, offering Easter greetings in 60 languages, including Serbo-Croat and Albanian.

But his tone was sombre, almost despairing. "How can Christ's message of joy and hope be made to resound when so many parts of the world are submerged in sorrow and tears?" he asked. "How can we speak of peace when people are forced to flee, when they are hunted down and their homes are burnt to the ground, when the heavens are rent by the din of war, when the whistle of shells is heard around people's homes and the ravaging fire of bombs consumes

shedding of human blood. When will there be an end to this diabolical spiral of revenge and senseless fratricidal conflict?"

He said he was invoking the "precious gift of peace" for "the devastated land of Kosovo, where tears and blood continue to mingle in a tragic spectacle of hatred and violence. I think of those who have been killed, of those made homeless, of those torn from their families, of those being forced to flee".

No one could remain insensitive to the "sorrowful flood of men and women from Kosovo who are knocking at our door begging for help".

The Pope, who had earlier appealed in vain for an Easter ceasefire, last week sent Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, his Foreign Minister, to Belgrade. Vatican officials noted that the Orthodox Easter falls next weekend, a week after the Western celebration.

Yesterday the Pope said he felt duty bound to "make a heartfelt appeal to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened". There could be "no front-

iers to impede the work of solidarity: corridors of hope are always an imperative".

The Pope said he was also thinking of Africa, "where the distressing fires of war are slow to disappear"; of Asia, "where dangerous social tensions are far from abating"; and Latin America, where nations were "committed to advancing on a laborious and uneven path towards the goals of greater justice and democracy".

The Pope declared that "in the face of persistent evidence of war and the countless grievous defeats of life, Christ the conqueror of sins and death urges us not to surrender". He hoped the new millennium would overcome the culture of hatred, violence and death.

The Pope, who lived through the Second World War in his native Poland, surprised the crowd by changing his text at the start of the Mass. He said he wanted to dedicate the service "to peace in the Balkans, to respect for the rights of man in the martyred land of Kosovo and to the flood of refugees".

During the Mass, a participant at the altar read a special prayer saying: "We pray that in the Balkans, with goodwill from both sides, the weapons will fall silent and negotiations will be restarted aimed at a true and lasting peace."



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, making his entry to the cathedral yesterday before giving his Easter sermon

Carey gives his blessing to bombing

BY ELIZABETH JUDGE AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, gave his support to the bombing of Yugoslavia yesterday in his Easter sermon at Canterbury.

Supporting Nato's bombing operation, he said: "In the Balkans, the evil of ethnic cleansing is leading to the crucifixion of Kosovo as the refugee crisis continues. Military action thus far is recognition that the civilised world cannot stand by and accept that evil should triumph."

The passage, inserted into the address at the last minute, added that skills and energy of similar intensity should be employed in "saving and protecting the lives of helpless and vulnerable people".

Dr Carey lamented the permanent nature of evil. He said: "Today we sing our Easter anthems but tomorrow violence, poverty, homelessness, greed, hatred, oppression and injustice will continue to plague our world."

Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo were among the places he named as examples of continuing hatred where "those whose trade is in continuing feuds and fostering violence have reaped a rich and deadly harvest".

He added: "In these dying months of the second millennium the world has not been immunised from evil. One result of the extraordinary development of modern science and technology has been a dramatic increase in our capacity to inflict even more horrifying evils upon one another and the fragile earth upon which we depend."

Dr Carey asked the population to support the appeal for refugees to be launched tomorrow by Christian Aid and other aid agencies.

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, also reflected on the nature of evil in the light of the conflict, warning that the conflict was unlikely to be resolved readily or easily.

Preaching in York Minster, Dr Hope said: "Over the centuries Christianity has borne enormous calamities in this and many nations as the struggle between good and evil has been fought out in God's creation. What a paradox then that we celebrate the risen Christ's greeting and gift of peace against the background of conflict in Yugoslavia."

Dr Hope pleaded for a return to the negotiating table. "The search for peace is al-

ways complex and fraught with difficulties in any area of conflict — witness Northern Ireland and the Middle East — but that search must always be maintained."

He added: "The scenes we have been witnessing this last week must surely have caused us all to ponder and reflect more deeply on our human condition, on the frailty of our human nature and what it is which can provoke such hatred, wickedness and sheer evil — those hidden and hideous things which may be a little less blatantly obvious in our own lives, but only perhaps because our circumstances are so very different."

Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, prayed "for the people of Kosovo suffering so grievously and for a return to negotiations lest a greater tragedy overtakes us all" and asked people to respond generously to requests for material help.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, said: "What matters at this

'Ethnic cleansing is leading to crucifixion of Kosovo'

stage of the conflict is an early resolve to achieve the goal we have set ourselves. The danger is that a ruthless ruler like Milosevic can make us hesitate and weaken. But to weaken now is in effect to hand the world over to those who are prepared to raise the stakes even higher through their unrestrained cruelty, in this case ethnic cleansing."

The Right Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, warned Christians not to treat the Resurrection as a "consoling fiction" and Jesus as a "magical deliverer" who will rid the world of evil.

He said that evil "stalks" creation. He said: "Who among us this weekend is not filled with longing for peace in Yugoslavia? Which of us does not long for justice on Earth? We must join the living Jesus in changing the world, not escaping from it."



Cardinal Hume at Westminster Cathedral yesterday. He prayed for a return to negotiations over Kosovo

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b. OOTB d. EERT

4 WHICH OF THESE SHAPES DOES NOT BELONG?



5 WHEN WILL THE IMPERIAL STATE OF IRAN BE SECOND?

SIDE (_ _ _) NATION

6 FIND THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY
VEL THE FOLLOWING.

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FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PAGE 9

سنة من الامم

BALKANS WAR: US LINE GROWS TOUGHER

Americans to send in the Apaches

PRESIDENT Clinton last night faced increasing pressure to back the use of ground troops in Kosovo after images of three captured soldiers and thousands of wounded refugees appeared to have convinced a majority of Americans that this was now the right thing to do.

A poll for Newsweek found that 54 per cent of Americans supported the use of ground troops and that 83 per cent believed troops should be sent in with the specific mission of rescuing the three prisoners of war. The poll was matched by an increasingly loud chorus from senior political figures.

The news of the poll came as the Clinton Administration confirmed that it was responding to a plea from Wesley Clark, the Nato commander, to send Apache helicopter gunships to Albania. They are expected to be based close to the Kosovo border with 2,000 ground troops and will then make raids on tank units and other Serb military targets. Senator John McCain, the Republican presidential candidate and former Vietnam POW who has been leading the calls for troops to be sent into Kosovo, welcomed the deployment of Apaches as "a step in the right direction", but argued that moves to assemble a full

Damian Whitworth reports from Washington that Clinton is under pressure to use ground troops

force of ground troops should have begun long ago. "You can't win a war if you aren't going to wage it. This situation needs to be remedied and remedied quickly, and the only way we are going to be able to do that is to bring the full might of the American and Nato military to bear," he said. Mr McCain, who was held for five years in Vietnam jails, much of it in solitary confinement, said that he was unhappy with the gradual escalation of the conflict which he said was familiar to him from the Vietnam War. "You have to go in heavily and that means you will see civilian casualties. I don't like that, but it pales against what we are seeing in Kosovo now," he said.

Mr McCain's view echoes the philosophy of General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, who argues that when the US intervenes it must do so with massive force and said of the current Balkans conflict: "The challenge of just using air power is that you leave it in the hands of your adversary to decide when

he's been punished enough." Warren Christopher, George Bush's Secretary of State, said in a Washington Post article yesterday that strong mobile forces should be placed in Macedonia and Albania to protect those nations "and to make it plain that no option has been foreclosed."

Significantly, Texas Governor and Republican presidential favourite George W. Bush, who last week had been extremely vague about his views on Kosovo, told Time that he would back the use of ground troops if the military believed they were necessary. "America must be careful to commit our military. But when we do so, we must do so ferociously. Once in we should be in to win," he said.

The Clinton Administration has repeatedly insisted that Nato ground troops would only enter Kosovo if there is a "permissive" environment in which a peace agreement could be enforced. Mr Clinton reiterated this firmly last week but used carefully qualified language to say that he believed Nato had "a good possi-

bility of achieving our mission with the means we have deployed... we have quite a good chance of achieving our objectives."

There was confusion last night over whether the three captured soldiers, Christopher Stone, Steven Gonzales and Andrew Ramirez, will be forced to stand trial. Milan Bozic, Minister without Portfolio in the Yugoslav Government and Deputy Mayor of Belgrade, said on the ABC programme This Week, that the three would not be put on trial and suggested Red Cross officials would be able to visit them. "Of course, they will not be tried and they will be back in their homes as soon as this stupidity stops," he said.

The Pentagon welcomed the news but said it had been unable to verify if it was true. "If it is true, then it is in accordance with the Geneva Convention. But we don't have any way of confirming it," said a spokesman. And the Yugoslav Ambassador to the United Nations, Vladislav Jovanovic, said an investigation into their actions was still under way, and a trial by a military court was a possibility.

Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, said that the United States would take "several thousand" refugees from Kosovo.



President Clinton with Secret Service agents and his dog Buddy yesterday. He is under pressure to back the use of ground troops to rescue the captured US soldiers

Nato's birthday party is spoilt

By IAN BRODIE

THE shadow of war has fallen across Nato's 50th anniversary party and officials are scrambling to tone down the festivities.

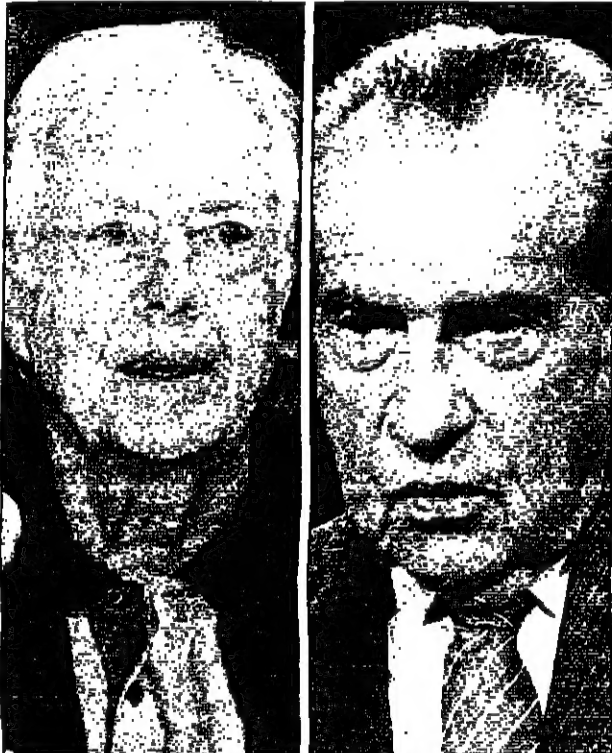
The three-day summit in Washington over the weekend of April 23-25 was shaping up to be a massive junket until the bombing began.

Now, officials are emphasising the importance of the work to be done at the gathering of 19 Nato Heads of Government, plus another 23 from neighbouring countries known as the Partnership for Peace - a total of 1,900 delegates.

White House aides are now choosing the word "commemoration", rather than "celebration", to describe the event.

As part of the more restrained atmosphere, a welcoming party thrown by the host committee and Washington's new mayor will probably be downgraded from a gala to a reception. Even the musical selections are being reconsidered, and guests will be urged to get involved in refugee relief efforts.

There will still be stylish lunches and dinners at the White House - but the mood will be more of sombre reflection than kicking up heels.



Former Presidents Carter, left, and Nixon: forced to make awkward decisions and compromises

Hostages force rethink in the White House

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CONFRONTED with three Americans held captive, President Clinton pledged that "the United States takes care of its own". But the seizure of the trio by Serb forces ratchets up the pressure on the White House where aides know how similar episodes have dragged other presidents into awkward decisions and compromises.

Stony-faced and haggard, Jimmy Carter appeared on television in 1980 to recount the desert failure of his military

change for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam lay at the heart of the 1973 agreement ending America's combat role.

One of those POWs, John McCain, held for five-and-a-half years after he was shot down and now a Republican senator, said that the arrest of three soldiers on the Kosovo border, sad though it was, should not influence Nato's prosecution of the conflict.

Several occupants of the Hanoi Hilton were forced under duress to make anti-American propaganda statements to the cameras, a tactic that backfired by generating fury in America.

The crew of the USS Pueblo, a reconnaissance ship captured by North Korea 30 years ago, were also displayed but managed to convey their views to viewers at home with certain obscene gestures unknown to their captors.

There have been other poignant images of Americans in captivity to tear at the nation's heartstrings. A navy pilot, Lieutenant Jeffrey Zaun, his face swollen and wounded, was seen on videotape during the Gulf War.

Michael Durant, a chief warrant officer, appeared cut and bruised after his helicopter was shot down in Somalia six years ago.

With Americans in enemy hands and facing an uncertain fate, people at home feel an emotional bond and are drawn together, according to Clyde Morgan, keeper of records for American Ex-Prisoners of War.

In her view, American presidents tend to run into trouble when the US takes the lead as the world's policeman and its citizens are seized.

"Then we have to weigh the lives of the POWs with the importance of what we're doing," she said.

operation to rescue 52 Americans held hostage in the United States Embassy in Tehran. Seven months later, Mr Carter lost to Ronald Reagan and only then were the hostages released. Mr Reagan in turn fell victim to the natural urge to help his countrymen snatched by terrorists from the streets of Beirut.

Lacking his usual aplomb, he went on television to insist: "The United States has not swapped boatloads of weapons for hostages." But arms had indeed been traded for freedom and the affair mushroomed into the Iran-Contra scandal.

Richard Nixon's push to end the Vietnam war was underscored by his urgent need to bring home downed American pilots held in a jail nicknamed the Hanoi Hilton. Their immediate release in ex-

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BALKANS WAR: THE AIR CAMPAIGN

Nato forgets hard lessons of Vietnam

WITH hindsight, Nato would probably have carried out Operation Allied Force the other way round. Instead of initially bombing with kid gloves and aiming almost exclusively at air defence sites, the alliance would have gone for the biggest blow on day one.

A massive air raid on Belgrade, knocking out all the key ministries linked to the "ethnic cleansing" operations in Kosovo and striking at President Milosevic's powerbase might — just might — have taken the Yugoslav leader so much by surprise that he would have changed his tactics.

Instead, with the help of Nato's daily briefings informing him what action the alliance bombers would be tak-



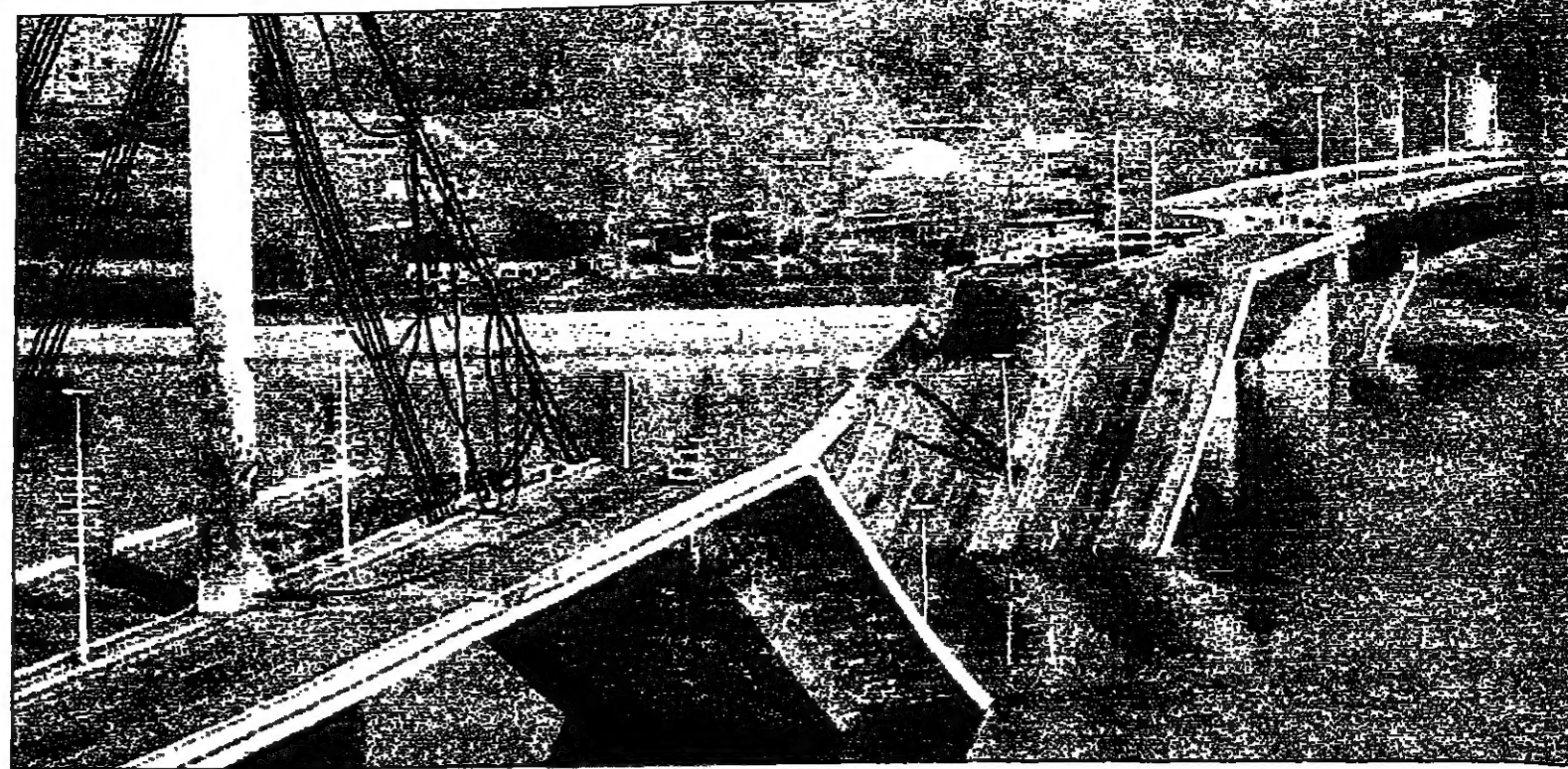
Michael Evans, Defence Editor, finds the inflexible bombing campaign flawed by its predictability

ing, Mr Milosevic and his generals have been able to predict events each day and take precautions.

Mr Milosevic knew — as everyone else did — that cruise missiles were going to attack his Interior Ministry buildings in the centre of Belgrade some time between last Thursday and the weekend. That was because General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in charge of Operation Allied Force, had been

authorised by 19 ambassadors to expand his targets to include such locations. No one imagines that the Interior Ministries were filled with hard-working state security police burning the midnight oil when the Tomahawks arrived.

While the Nato air campaign has followed a predictable doctrine and strategy — a surprisingly inflexible one despite Nato's post-Cold War policy of guaranteeing flexibility to meet the new unpredictable



The second bridge in Novi Sad that was destroyed by Nato aircraft at the weekend. The first one to be hit also carried the city's water supply

world — Mr Milosevic succeeded in surprising the alliance. No one was fully prepared for the merciless onslaught by Yugoslav forces against the ethnic Albanians once the bombing began.

Douglas Henderson, the

Armed Forces Minister, tried yesterday to describe the scale of the ethnic cleansing by comparing the flood of refugees to the populations of towns in Britain.

He said: "The number of refugees who left Kosovo in the

24 hours to 10am yesterday was estimated at 70,000 — equivalent to a town the size of Hastings. The total number estimated to have left Kosovo since March 24 (when the bombing started) is 370,000, equivalent to the population of

Bristol." He concluded: "Taking into account displaced persons still within Kosovo, the total number of refugees and displaced persons is estimated at more than 650,000, which is more than twice the population of my home town, Newcastle."

Nato leaders will argue that decisions had to be made without the benefit of hindsight, and that the step-by-step approach to bombing was both practical — first hitting targets which most threatened allied pilots — and publicly acceptable.

However, in approving such a policy, Nato became predictable. Mr Milosevic would have known, from one chat with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, that Nato worried intensely about losing pilots and that its top priority would be to go for the integrated air defence system.

In response, by comparison with what he could have unleashed the Yugoslav leader kept his surface-to-air missile systems largely hidden away, knowing that, whenever any of his radars locked on to aircraft, Nato's superior technology would be able to pounce.

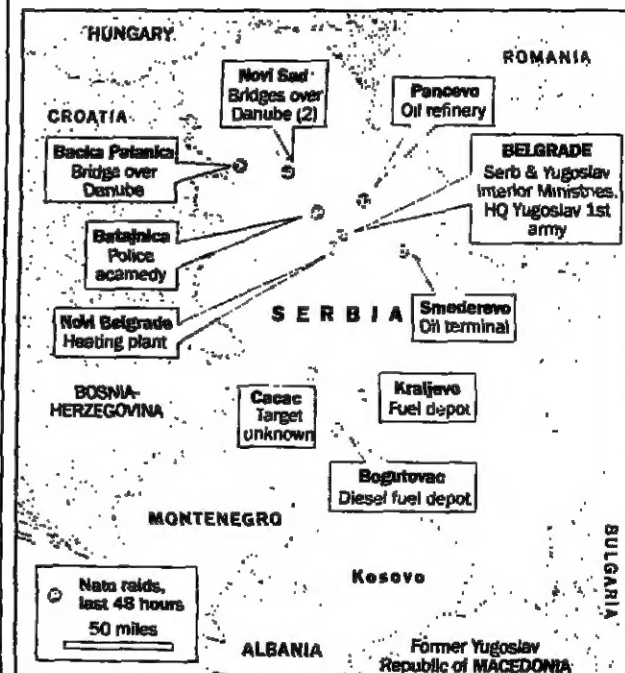
It would have been politically difficult for Nato governments — who were hoping that a few days of air raids would bring Mr Milosevic to his senses — to authorise over-

whelming airstrikes on Belgrade on the first night. This was not, after all, a Saddam situation. In 1991 nearly 40 countries — blessed with a United Nations mandate — had the authority and public support to hit Saddam as hard as necessary to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

There is no such mandate for Kosovo, and the level of bombing up until now has reflected the political difficulties that have constrained the 19 Nato governments since March 24.

Now, however, as can be judged by the dramatically expanded level of targeting, Nato has decided to go for the big-bang concept, striking at anything that can be even remotely defined as having a link to Mr Milosevic's military machine.

But it is difficult to feel confident about the way Nato governments have proceeded thus far. The trouble is a crucial lesson from Vietnam has been forgotten. Nato has mounted an air campaign on the basis that superior firepower will win. But, as the Americans learnt to their cost in Vietnam, a small unit of camouflaged Vietcong, armed with Kalashnikovs and rocket-propelled grenades, can prove to be an equal match, even for a superpower, when operating on their home ground.



BALKANS SUMMARY

Serbs 'faked' film of Kosovo leader

Brussels: Serbian television film of Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate Kosovo Albanian leader, meeting President Milosevic and calling for an end to bombing were faked by Belgrade and he is under effective house arrest in Pristina, Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said (Charles Bremner writes). The pictures which Belgrade television claimed was a meeting last week had in fact been taken from video footage of the Kosovo leader talking to Mr Milosevic two years ago about an education initiative, he said. Mr Rugova's message was a call for the cessation of violence, not Nato bombing, but it had been falsified, Mr Shea added.

Spy ship enters Aegean

Athens: A Russian spy ship, on its way to monitor developments in Yugoslavia, entered the Aegean Sea en route for the Adriatic, Greek military officials reported. *Liman*, an unarmed reconnaissance vessel, will act as Moscow's eyes and ears on Western warships supporting Nato's air war against Yugoslavia. Two Greek Navy vessels will "observe" the ship's passage, an official said. Greece has voiced opposition to the Nato bombings. (AFP)

Aid workers missing

Sydney: Two Australian aid workers were still missing in Yugoslavia, four days after they set out from Belgrade intending to help refugees fleeing Kosovo. The aid organisation CARE Australia said it had fresh evidence that Steven Pratt and Peter Wallace had been detained while trying to cross the Yugoslav border into Croatia on Wednesday. "We believe they are still being held somewhere in the border area," a spokesman said. (Reuters)

Fischer delays wedding

Bonn: The wedding of Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, to Nicola Leske was postponed because of the Kosovo conflict. *Bild am Sonntag* reported. Herr Fischer, 50, and Fraulein Leske, 29, were to be married next Sunday, but *Bild* quoted the minister's friends as saying that he was overworked and had been "tired for days and days". The paper said the wedding would instead take place on April 17. (AFP)

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Bombs fail to halt defiance in Belgrade

AFTER their Interior Ministries were blown up on Saturday morning, Belgraders said that Nato would not have the nerve to strike again. Not on "their" Easter Sunday, they said. No God-fearing nation, not even the Western aggressors, could do that.

But at 4.30 yesterday morning the unthinkable happened. Tomahawk missiles ripped apart the main central heating plant for the sprawling suburb of New Belgrade, unleashing a rapid series of diesel fuel ignitions that reverberated with biblical proportions over the sleeping city.

It took until the spring sun was fully up for the flames and smoke to subside, and for the extent of the damage and casualties to sink in. Rows of apartment blocks along Juri Gagarin Street had their windows and even doors blown in, and it seemed a miracle that only three people died in the blast — as Yugoslav army sources declared later.

And so yesterday was spent clearing up the mess, and asking which bits of civilian infrastructure Nato would declare to have military uses next. As well as the heating plant, Nato also hit an oil refinery at Pancovo, outside Belgrade, and two more bridges in the northern Vojvodina province.

A police academy in Belgrade was partly destroyed, a white goods factory in the central town of Cacak was targeted again, and fuel depots were blown up near Krajevo and Smederevo.

"When you live in such stress, you don't feel anything," said Olga, a 32-year-old musician whose family had the misfortune to live 200 yards away from the central heating plant. She was so con-



Tom Walker witnesses the destruction in Belgrade as anger grows against Nato's stepped-up attacks

fused yesterday morning that she could not remember whether she had felt the searing heat from the blast or not: all she recalled was that her piano saved her from most of the flying glass that once was a French window, and that somehow her two canaries, Giki and Chirokee, also survived. "For some reason you feel more sorry for your pets than anyone else," she said.

Despite the devastation, women emerging from the

in the daily "music against bombs" concert. Those held over the weekend were more elaborate than last week's — impressive in their sound quality and passion. The theme tune of the Yugoslav Army spot on television was performed by a full orchestra, and folk songs dating back to the Turkish occupation left many on the stage and in the audience in tears.

As the damage to central Belgrade increases, the welcome given to foreign journalists diminishes. Several reporters were arrested over the weekend in their scramble to be first to witness the pyrotechnics, and the army press service tried to strengthen its control over the media pack.

Satellite television channels like CNN and Sky have been vigorously criticised on state media and accused of ignoring the suffering in Belgrade — especially that of the young mothers and their babies in the maternity ward of the hospital just a block away from the wrecked Interior Ministry.

"Hatred for America, Britain and Albanians is what I feel because of all this, although I know that is irrational. What is a spectacle for you is pain for us," said one resident of the affluent suburb of Dedinje. He stood in his pyjamas, watching diesel dumps around the central heating plant throw balls of fire into the dawn.

Shortly after the Interior Ministry was blown up on Saturday, hundreds of Belgraders formed a "human chain" over the nearby motorway bridge. They were there again on Saturday night, and Vuk Draskovic, the federal Deputy Prime Minister, said the human shield tactic was being used to thwart Nato all around the country.

At the Kragujevac car plant in central Serbia, workers sent Brussels an e-mail, giving the map co-ordinates of the factory where they were holding a round-the-clock candlelit vigil.

If the bombs have failed to dent the civilian spirit, they appeared to make the military only more heroic. Dragoljub Ojdanic, the Chief of the Gen-

eral Staff, gave his troops a rousing address, talking of a Nato that planned to "mutilate the living flesh of our country". He went on: "The aggressors have been launching and continue to promote hazy and constructed fabrications about preserving peace in the Balkans with a war, about using bombs, fire, new cemeteries and mutilations to prevent a human catastrophe. As far as we are concerned, no honest man in this country will ever accept to serve such criminal plans."

General Ojdanic said public backing for the Nato campaign in the West was slipping, and he told his troops the fight against Nato would con-

tinue until "the criminals are expelled from our skies and away from our borders". The alliance was driven by a "drunkenness based on power and new imperialist dreams". Helping to ram home his message, state television showed a series of military bunkers in Kosovo containing MiG fighter jets and other hardware apparently beyond Nato's reach.

Radio Television Serbia said that the latest attack on a bridge in Novi Sad had left many people missing. Search parties were trying to salvage cars from the Danube, it said. Military sources said they could think of few reasons to destroy the "Freedom Bridge," and none to blow apart the

Backa Palanka crossing of the Danube linking Serbia and Croatia — about as far from Kosovo as possible in Serbia.

Diplomats speculated that Nato might be planning to somehow isolate northern Serbia, and the theory was given credence by the destruction of the railway line linking Belgrade and Montenegro. A short section of the line passes through Bosnia, where it was blown up on Saturday by units from the Nato-led stabilisation force near the town of Srebac.

A farmer, Vidoje Tomic, was killed in the blast. His death was thought likely to unite the Bosnian Serbs with their kin in the struggle against Nato.



A central heating plant in Belgrade burns near the Sava river after being hit by Tomahawk missiles early yesterday. A series of blasts rocked the sleeping city



Demonstrators denounce Nato's airstrikes at a rally in Belgrade's Republic Square yesterday

British wife is ashamed over bombing 'lies'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

THE British wife of a Yugoslav national trapped beneath Nato's bombardment of Belgrade yesterday said that she felt so "torn up and ashamed" of her country's role in the airstrikes that she has only just re-emerged in public.

But Janice Mrdjenovic admitted that, since she has shown her face again in the Zvezdara suburb, her home for the past 13 years, she had been "very deeply touched" by the reactions of her neighbours. "You can't be in Belgrade and not start to feel some admiration for these people," she added, attaching an anti-Nato protest tag to the family dog, Bonnie.

She said the bombing campaign had cleared up any lingering identity crisis for her eldest son, Branco, 16. "He has absorbed this feeling from his friends over the last week or so about being a Serb. If he ever had difficulty over his identity, then over the last week he has solved it."

Her youngest child, Stevan, is nine, and the middle boy Marco is 13. But despite wanting to keep them all in peace and safety, the financial costs of evacuation were prohibitive. So for the past ten days she and her artist husband, Dusan, have arranged a temporary bomb shelter in the basement of their spacious, detached house, and hung to the hope that Nato's smart technology is as accurate as is claimed.

"I didn't believe that we'd ever be in this position with a British Government. They say they're not bombing the Serb people," complained Janice, who was born in London. "Well, it's very difficult to say that to someone lying in hospital missing a leg at this moment: 'this idea that you are not bombing us, but we just got in the way.'"

While her two eldest boys were coping well with the

stress, she said she was worried about the psychological consequences for Stevan.

"I heard him mumbling in his sleep 'you're killing me' — he could have got it from his Bond game on his Nintendo or it could have come from the situation we're in. There's bound to be some effect."

Just before Branco came home, she confessed that she was thankful his Yugoslav military service is still at least one year away. "I thank God that he's 17 in May, that age, and not 18". Smoking constantly, Janice showed a diary that she had been writing about Nato's nightly rain of terror. Dusan played with Bonnie and the boys in the garden, enjoying the respite of a warm afternoon and looking forward to the time when they have barbecues again. "They're obviously not afraid of God with their lies," he said of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his fellow backers of the strikes.

Janice's writing reflects upon the differences of being English and Serbian, and the pride felt by Serbs despite all that Nato throws at them. "I think maybe the English are more in love with their Englishness than their homeland, and the Serbs are more in love with their homeland than being at ease with themselves."

When she first ventured out to the shops again after spending the first four days of the bombing campaign locked up indoors, the man in the local cigarette and newspaper kiosk had assured her that "there are all sorts all over the world". Then in the supermarket the woman behind the counter had shouted: "Heh, neighbour, you look as young today as you did ten years ago."

Janice commented: "It showed everyone that I was a local, and put me at ease. I won't forget that."

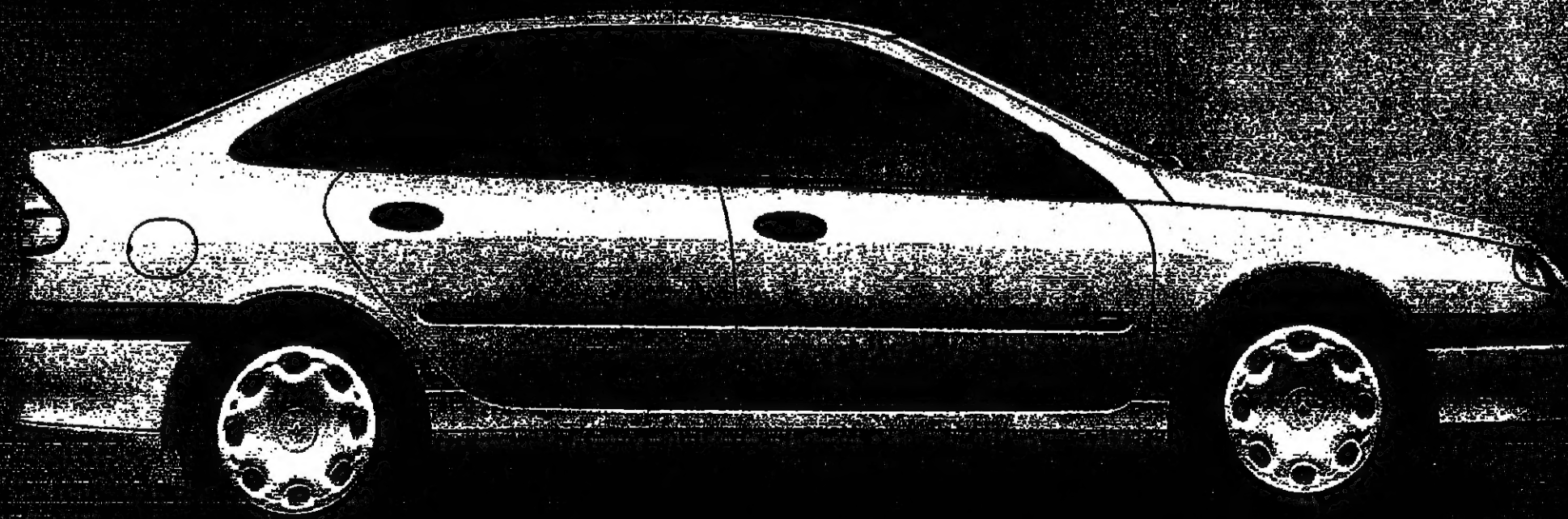


Reporters visit a Belgrade building that was bombed yesterday. A security guard was killed

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Railtrack must take on cleaning duties

Campaigners, such as the Tidy Britain Group, and the train companies, have complained of a steady build-up of rubbish on railways across the country, leading to fires triggering the shorting of electrical equipment and trains having to slow down at certain places.

Jails lag on tagging

Prisons are being urged to speed up the release of prisoners under the new electronic tagging scheme, launched two months ago, after fears that only 30 per cent of eligible prisoners are being freed early because prison chiefs are being over-cautious. So far, 3,045 inmates have been released — 4 per cent of whom have been recalled to jail either for re-offending or breaching their curfew. The Prison Service is hailing the results a success and says the numbers will rise steadily each week until the end of April, when they will probably flatten out.

Long hop for giant toads On a wing and a prayer

Two giant toads with a surprising line in self-defence are doing fine after stowing away for 3,000 miles in a car's engine compartment. In Florida, Tommy and Tina, the 10 inch marine toads, had hopped aboard a Ford Mustang being shipped to a car collector in Sheffield. Their mating call gave them away: the collector heard "a sort of throaty grinding noise" coming from under the bonnet. He was well advised to call in the experts: when the toads feel threatened, they reply with a jet of urine. The pair are now at a wildlife centre.

A Boeing 737 had a near-miss when a hang glider flew into its path at 6,500ft. The crew of the passenger plane, which was about to begin its descent into Manchester airport, kept their nerve and did not need to change course. The glider, who has not been found, is believed to have drifted in on a thermal current before floating to safety. Keith Bill, spokesman for the British Airline Pilots' Association, said: "I have never come across anything like this." The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the incident.

Book celebrity aged 10

At 10. Lizzie Broughton is a Times Free Books for Schools celebrity, after the paper published her letter complaining that her mother made her scour the Science Museum café for unwanted tokens. Since then, letters, tokens and e-mails have been flooding into her Twickenham home. The fanaticism of the Broughton family's search stems from the fact that they have three schools to collect for - Lizzie's, her sisters' and the school where her mother, Ann, teaches. The family would like to thank everyone who has sent Lizzie tokens and asks that any others be sent to her school, Trafalgar Junior School in Twickenham.

Token, page 24



A "colour party" of the IRA attending an Easter Rising rally yesterday in Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland, as Sinn Fein leaders sought to keep the peace process on track

Keep the guns, say hardliners



McGuinness called for trust in Sinn Féin

THE message was clear yesterday as hundreds gathered in Dundalk to remember the rebels of the 1916 Easter Rising: no decommissioning, no surrender.

"Giving up their weapons would be like saying the IRA was responsible for everything that happened in the past 30 years," said Catherine as she prepared for the annual parade to the republican plot in the town cemetery. "It would be like saying it was their fault. They aren't to blame and nobody should try to force them into handing over any weapons."

She was wearing a paper Easter lily pinned to the lapel of her black leather jacket in a show of solidarity with the men and women who fought against British forces in 1916. She believes that the IRA and republicans are still fighting for the same ideals and that the peace process is just the latest phase in the lengthy battle.

Sinn Féin leaders used Easter rallies across Ireland to seek to restore confidence and faith among in their party members yesterday, to placate grassroots fears of a sell-out by calling the latest demands for IRA decommissioning of weapons "dangerous and provocative" and not part of the Good Friday Agreement.

Dundalk is the heartland of republicanism in the Irish Republic. Only ten miles south of the border, it was to Dundalk that repub-

Audrey Magee reports on Sinn Fein's struggle to reassure its supporters

licans fled for shelter from British security forces. For decades it was an IRA and Sinn Fein stronghold where thousands turned out for the annual Easter Sunday parade. Since the peace process, the numbers have dwindled and splits have formed. Dundalk is now better known as the heartland of the "Real" IRA, the dissident group that bombed Omagh last year, killing 29 people.

About 300 attended the parade yesterday but the Sinn Féin supporters in Dundalk acted as though they were still in control. They met in huddled groups to discuss last week's Hillsborough declaration. Jim, who like most people declined to give his surname, said that he was growing "increasingly sceptical" of the entire process. It had crossed his mind to transfer to one of the dissident groups but would stick around for a little longer to see how things worked out. But he ruled out de-commissioning. "Orange marching and July 12 is only around the corner," he said. "There is no way the IRA will go through this summer without arms."

Addressing the crowd after wreath-laying, Martin McGuinness called on supporters to trust

Sinn Féin to push the agreement through without "the surrender of the IRA". He said: "Every day since Good Friday of last year, the Unionist political leadership has done everything in its power to rewrite, redraft and renegotiate the Good Friday Agreement and it is not on. It is not on because the agreement has been endorsed by the majority of the people on this island. We in Sinn Féin find totally unreasonable and unacceptable the Unionist demands for surrender by the IRA." He warned the crowd not be confused or waylaid by others.

During the biggest Easter ceremony, at Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, the Sinn Fein chairman, Michel McLaughlin, told a crowd of more than 1,000: "The agreement is clearly in crisis. Another deadline passed this week and the peace process remains in considerable doubt."

At a rally in Dublin, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, said: "One of the provocations has been the demand on the IRA to disarm. This is something which the IRA has made clear it feels under no obligation to do. The danger of all this is to the quest for justice in the north has been pointed out

many times to the British and Irish Governments."

The rallies were the first time that Sinn Féin addressed their supporters since the London and Dublin Governments finished 20 hours of talks on Thursday with a declaration calling for progress on disarmament. Sinn Féin sought to distance itself from the declaration yesterday, insisting it was a government document that they had not signed.

But despite the warnings of unease within republican ranks, Ulster Unionists still insisted that the Provisionals would begin to hand over weapons and explosives within weeks. David Trimble, First Minister and UUP leader, said that he believed republicans were "up" for accepting the joint declaration at Hillsborough, which would clear the path for its members to share power in Ulster's new ruling executive.

"I think we have cracked it now," he said. "There are still some things to be done but we are getting into the foothills now and the road is getting easier."

All sides now have a week to decide their response. Mr Trimble is under pressure from members to reject any suggested link between Army demilitarisation and terrorist decommissioning. Sinn Féin will this week begin a round of negotiations with members to gauge reactions to Hillsborough.

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* Closed Easter Sunday
** Closed Easter Monday

New investigation of black student's death

Police to look at whether teenager was pushed off railway bridge, reports Stewart Tendler

THIS investigation into the death of an 18-year-old black student has been relaunched after an internal police review criticised the initial inquiry.

Senior officers from Scotland Yard and the British Transport Police are awaiting the results of a second post-mortem examination on Daniel Blake, whose body was found on a railway line beneath a road bridge in North London three years ago. A new team is investigating whether Daniel was pushed from the bridge or jumped to escape pursuit.

The action was taken after pressure from Bernie Blake, Daniel's father, forced a review by a senior transport police detective. Police are satisfied that Daniel did not die as a result of a racist attack, but alleged errors again raise the issues of how police treat black victims and their families, and raise fears of a Stephen Lawrence-style controversy.

The case was initially handled by the Metropolitan Police, who handed it to the transport police. The review found that Daniel's parents were unaware that he was dead for nearly three days after he was found although they had reported him missing and checked with police several times.

If police had known that the body on the line was Daniel's,

they might have promptly investigated reports that he had been involved in a fight at a house hours before he died. His clothing was incriminated without being forensically examined.

For months, the review concluded, the investigation drifted with little progress. Although Mr Blake pressed for action the police failed to find a number of suspects.

Daniel was found by a train driver on a freight line below Dudden Hill Lane in Harlesden on Saturday, March 23, 1996. The previous night a friend had dropped him at a house in nearby Kensal Green, where he was going to meet a former girlfriend. Daniel had no police record and there is no evidence of any drug involvement in his death.

Local Metropolitan Police officers summoned a police surgeon. A murder expert from an area major incident team (Amit) was called and the senior duty transport police detective alerted. The Amit officer thought that Daniel's death was a suicide and discussed it with his superintendent. The case was passed to the transport police and their senior detective, having learnt of the Amit view, did not go to the scene.

The Blake family had reported Daniel missing at Harlesden police station at 6.45pm on



Daniel Blake: parents not told he was dead

March 23. Later that day Mr Blake discovered his son had gone to the Kensal Green house and went there. He was told that Daniel had been in a row and been asked to leave. Mr Blake called police, who went to the house. No connection was made with the body on the line or the fact that a neighbour had reported a fight outside the house on the Friday night.

On the Monday evening a local officer from the Kilburn station told the Blakes about the

body on the railway line. According to Mr Blake a transport police officer arrived with a picture of the body the next day and asked the family to identify him. Mr Blake could not bear to look at the picture. He says that he was told his son had committed suicide. A post-mortem examination concluded that Daniel had died from injuries suffered in a fall. The transport police spent four months investigating, but lack of progress prompted Mr Blake to write to senior officers asking for more action.

Police deny that there was racism in the way the case was handled, but Detective Superintendent Graham Sauchwell, the transport police officer who carried out the review, said: "It was clear that not all that could have been done was done. Mr Blake could have expected greater sensitivity from the police service."

In January 1997 an inquest returned an open verdict. Eight black men and women were arrested but the Crown Prosecution Service advised that there was insufficient evidence to bring a case.



Girls at the Khalsa Tricentenary parade in Hounslow, West London, yesterday celebrating the Sikh nations' birth

Police ambush 25mph pensioner

A POLICE patrol set off in cold pursuit when it spotted an elderly woman driving erratically in the early hours. The police switched on their flashing light but the driver pressed on at a funeral pace. In a low-speed chase lasting half an hour, the mileometer touched 25 miles an hour on downhill stretches as Annaleise

Wood, 70, weaved across the country road and clipped the occasional kerb in her 14-year-old Nissan Stanza. After failed attempts to persuade her to pull over, the police radioed for help and the target car was brought to a halt in the village of Hollym, Humberside, by the deployment of a police "stinger" device

more often used to burst the tyres of teenage speeders in stolen cars.

At Hull magistrates' courts, Mrs Wood, of Anlaby Park, Hull, was fined £120 and disqualified for 18 months for failing to provide a breath specimen. A neighbour said: "She's a respectable lady. It seems totally out of character."



The railway line on which Daniel's body was found

Interview with 'Lawrence Five' disgusts family

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND MICHAEL HARVEY

THE decision to make a current affairs programme featuring lengthy interviews with the five men suspected of killing the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was defended by Granada Television yesterday.

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, said they were disgusted and shocked that Granada should give a voice to the five men, Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris. They are considering asking the public to boycott the programme.

Executives insisted that the interviews, expected to be broadcast by ITV on Thursday, were "meticulous and exhaustive" and would bring "important new material" to light. They said that the programme, to be hosted by Trevor McDonald, was "not a platform for these men to propagate racist views".

The Metropolitan Police have started legal proceedings to gain access to all the tapes, which last several hours, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. However, they have agreed to wait until the material has been transmitted before taking further action.

None of the five has ever faced a full trial for Stephen's murder. The private prosecution begun by the Lawrence family in 1995, after the Crown Prosecution Service had decid-

ed not to proceed, ended when three of them were acquitted at the Old Bailey when evidence was ruled inadmissible; charges against the two others had been dropped.

A friend of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, Ros Howells, said that they had known about the programme for some time and felt that it was in very bad taste. Ms Howells said: "These five men have had ample opportunity to say what they want to say at the inquest and at the judicial inquiry. At both they were told they were free to speak and they avoided answering the questions."

Imran Khan, the Lawrence's solicitor, said: "This should have been aired in a courtroom, not on TV. We were led to believe the family's views would be taken into consideration. But it seems it was going to happen whether they liked it or not."

However, a spokesman for Granada said that Mr and Mrs Lawrence had been approached before the interviews took place in an attempt to discuss the programme with them. "The dialogue is continuing but we have not yet been invited to meet them," the spokesman said. He added that the men had been interviewed separately by Martin Bashir, the former Panorama reporter. The men had not been allowed to discuss their interviews with each other.

Dimbleby decries 'banality' of TV

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DAVID DIMBLEBY, the BBC broadcaster, has denounced prime-time television as "ghastly, voyeuristic and banal", and says he now prefers to listen to the radio.

Mr Dimbleby, who presents Question Time and is one of the BBC's most respected television anchor-men, is particularly critical of the BBC's live National Lottery show and its Comic Relief "tele-

thons". He found it "mind-boggling" that anyone would want to watch them.

He similarly dismissed Who Wants to be a Millionaire, the ITV quiz show that has achieved audiences of 19 million, as "unbelievable banality".

By contrast, he said, his own three-part BBC2 television series on the history of Rhodesia was one of the few examples left of good television.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fowler in apology for drug stunt

Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England footballer, last night apologised for gestures he made while celebrating a goal against Everton on Saturday, when he appeared to mimic drug-taking. Fowler, who is already in trouble after in February allegedly taunting the Chelsea player Graeme Le Saux over his sexuality, said that he now realised that his actions had caused "great offence" and regretted them.

Merseyside Police have started an investigation into the incident, in which the striker dropped to the white line to act as if snorting cocaine. The Football Association is considering disciplinary proceedings. Sport, page 28

CS replacement

Police may conduct trials of a synthetic chemical that could replace CS spray. Pelargonic acid vanillylamide (PAVA), does not use the CS spray's propellant, MIBK, which a study for the Home Office said may be carcinogenic.

Britons on trial

The trial of eight Britons accused of plotting terrorism is expected to resume in Yemen today, although defence lawyers are boycotting the proceedings in protest at not being allowed to talk to their clients privately in prison.

Tipping trap

Cameras hidden in empty soft-drink cans are being used to catch people dumping rubbish in the Oxfordshire countryside. Council and Environment Agency staff plan to use the films as evidence for prosecutions.

Number's up

The number 13 has been banned for new houses after developers feared they would not sell. A spokesman for Test Valley Council in Hampshire said: "Estate agents asked us to leave off 13. It could be unlucky for some."

Lockerbie trial officials set to receive suspects

A GROUP of Arab diplomats yesterday headed to Libya for the expected handover of the two Lockerbie bomb suspects to the United Nations.

The group, led by Ahmed Ben Heli, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general, flew to the Tunisian island of Jerba, from where they were to be driven over the border to Tripoli. They cannot fly, as Libya is subject to United Nations sanctions banning flights until the two men arrive in Europe.

Witnesses from six Arab countries, including Egypt, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia, will oversee the delivery of the suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 46, and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah, 42, to Hans Corell, the UN's chief legal counsel.

He will then fly them to Holland, where they will be tried under Scottish law. Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Arab League's Secretary-General, expected the extradition hearing to begin "in the next few days, the next 24 or 48 hours" and praised Colonel Gaddafi for flexibility in agreeing to provide the pair for trial over their alleged involvement in the death of 270 people in December 1988 when a bomb exploded on board Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie.

He said: "By handing over

Arab diplomats oversee the transfer of two Libyans to UN custody, reports Stephen Farrell

the two suspects to the jurisdiction of a Scottish court, I think Libya has shown goodwill to put an end to this and lift the sanctions. We hope this will clear relations between the Arab world, particularly Libya, and the United States and the United Kingdom."

He also paid tribute to the diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and South Africa in bringing about the compromise.

As the delegation departed for Libya, two senior Scottish prosecutors arrived in Holland for the extradition proceedings. Norman McFadyen, a regional procurator fiscal, and Jim Brisbane, the deputy principal Crown agent, flew into Schiphol airport from Edinburgh and were taken to a secret location.

When the two Libyans arrive they will be handed over

to the Dutch authorities by the UN. Unless they oppose extradition they will be quickly taken to Camp Zeist, a 100-acre former US Air Force base near Utrecht, which has been declared Scottish territory for the purposes of the trial.

There they will appear before Sheriff Graham Cox at a closed committal hearing on charges of conspiracy to murder, murder and contravention of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

Until the trial, not expected before the end of the year, the pair will be guarded on the camp by more than a hundred Scottish police and prison officers. The courtroom, which has yet to be finished, will be housed inside a former US Air Force primary school.

The cells, a hundred yards away, are underneath a secure former US hospital. Nearby the former Dutch officers' restaurant will be a canteen for the police, prison officers, legal, catering and other ancillary workers, translators and international observers.

The base's old sports hall will become an international press centre and its former barracks are being renovated as accommodation quarters. All building and other costs will be met by Britain at an estimated final cost of £50 million.



Norman McFadyen and Jim Brisbane, procurators fiscal, arriving in Holland yesterday

Sheriff ready to leave for 'Scotland'

By Gillian Harris

THE sheriff principal of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway will be the first member of the Scottish judiciary to encounter Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimah. Sheriff Graham Cox, 65, is expected to leave for The Netherlands today.

Once the pair have been handed over, the two Scottish lawyers who will oversee proceedings against them — Norman McFadyen, the Procurator Fiscal for Edinburgh, and Jim Brisbane, the deputy principal Crown agent — will appear in the courtroom built on the site for the closed committal hearing in front of Sheriff Cox.

A widely respected figure, Sheriff Cox was praised for his handling of last year's inquiry into the E. coli outbreak in Lanarkshire, which claimed 21 lives. He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, educated at Hamilton Academy and Edinburgh University and called to the Bar in 1962.

Sheriff Cox's interests, listed in *Who's Who*, include golf, skiing and the restoration of decaying properties. He might well be impressed by the renovation of Camp Zeist, which was a derelict former US base before it was transformed for Scottish judicial use.

NUT backs strikes to see off pay linked to results

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE leader of the National Union of Teachers predicted yesterday that the threat of industrial action in schools would force the Government to abandon plans for performance-related pay and instead award £1 billion in salary rises of up to £3,000 for every teacher.

Plans for a rolling programme of strikes and other forms of disruption

will be completed tomorrow at the union's annual conference in Brighton. Delegates gave unanimous backing yesterday to a campaign, beginning with a one-day strike next term, opposing any link between pay and pupils' results.

Ministers have set aside £1 billion to reward staff in successful schools and fund increases of about £2,000 for teachers whose classroom performance justifies passing a new pay "threshold". Additional money

will be available in bonuses and other reward schemes. But Doug McCauley, the NUT's general secretary, said that the strength of opposition to the proposals would leave the Government no alternative but to use the money to give all teachers a substantial increase.

"Teachers will know that the money is there but the Government won't release it. That will hardly motivate them or help to recruit the extra teachers schools need. Of course,

they [the Government] will be forced to release the £1 billion," said.

David Blunkett was jeered when he told delegates on Saturday that they were "daft" to be considering strikes when the Government was proposing to boost the pay of thousands of teachers. He said later that he would discuss details, but the principle of performance-related pay was not open to negotiation.

A succession of delegates yesterday insisted that the Government's

scheme would destroy teamwork between teachers and encourage them to focus narrowly on the test results by which they would be judged. John Yandell, of Hackney, East London, said of Mr Blunkett's plans for higher grades for the best performers: "We all are superteachers. Why doesn't he pay us as superteachers?"

Jane Nellist, of the union's Coventry branch, said: "We have already seen play being squeezed out and it will disappear altogether if the

Green Paper is implemented. Teachers will be forced to teach about commas today, instead of children being allowed to go and play in the sand tray. That would be criminal."

Mary Compton, an executive member from Radnor, in Wales, said she was insulted by the notion of financial incentives. "I have always cared about my teaching. I am outraged at the idea that I would care more if anyone gave me more money."



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Towns tussle for a city break

The starters are lining up to be the last city created this millennium.

Richard Ford looks at the runners

AN UNDECLARED battle is under way between the council chambers of England and Wales for the prize of being the last city to be created in this millennium.

Old smokestack districts are competing against a popular seaside resort, and the world's former weaving capital is vying with a borough made rich by the postwar office boom.

Jack Straw will formally open the contest next month by seeking applications for city status, but in town halls across the country bids have already been prepared.

Five towns have emerged as frontrunners since it was announced last year that the Queen intended to mark the millennium and the fiftieth anniversary of her accession to the throne by grants of city status. Many more will join the race for the honour of receiving a royal charter followed by a visit from the Queen herself.

The new city will be announced in the autumn. It is a status that offers little more than letters patent from the Queen and vast local pride in the council chamber. Blackburn and Darwen, Brighton and Hove, Croydon, Stockport and Wolverhampton are bursting to project themselves as the country's newest city.

Nearly forgetting London's position in the South East,

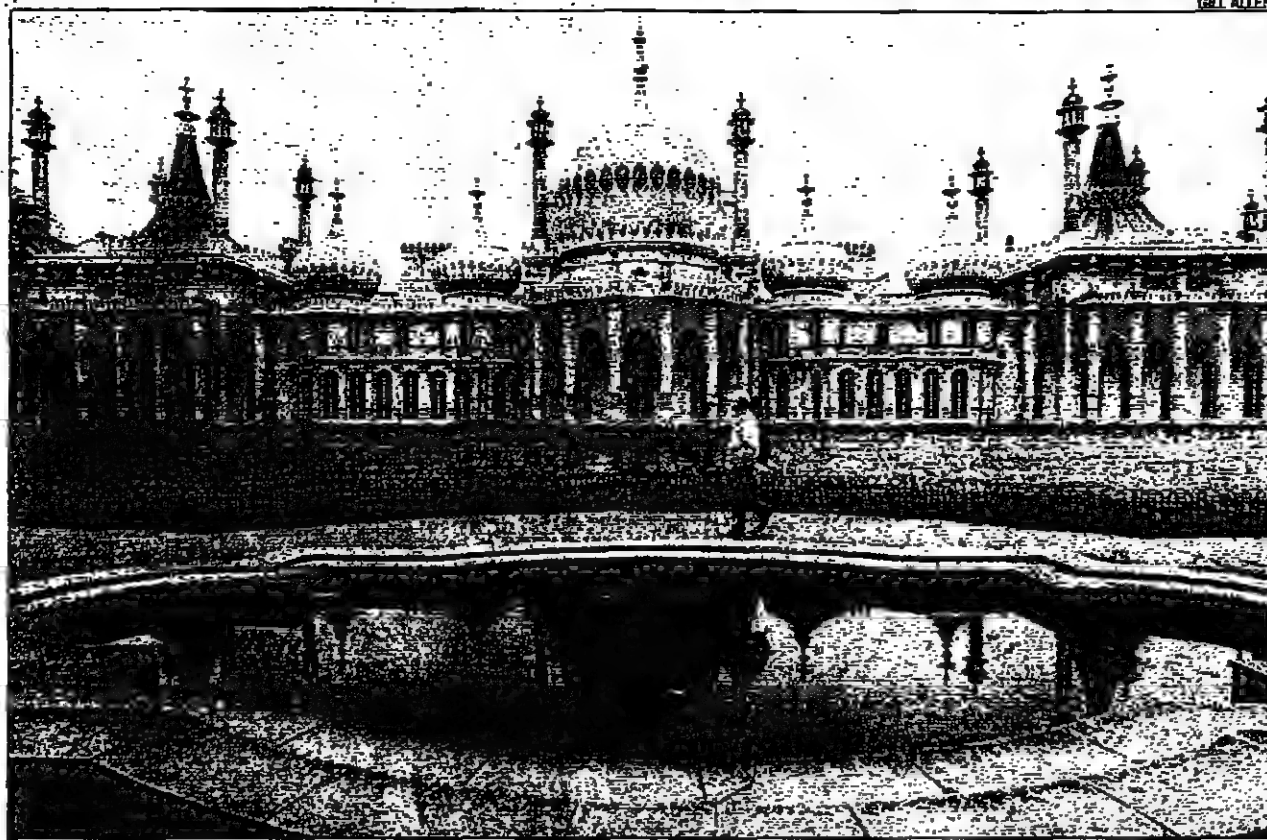
Lord Bassam of Brighton, leader of the council in Brighton and Hove, which already calls itself the City by the Sea, boasted: "We're looking to become the capital city of the South East as part of the tremendous renaissance we have seen in the past ten years." To make sure that the Home Secretary gets the point, he added: "We are certainly bigger than many cathedral cities."

Despite the popular myth, there are no set criteria for achieving city status, according to the Home Office. It is not necessary to have a cathedral to be awarded the status. Cambridge, Hull and Sunderland are cities but have no cathedrals, while Blackburn has a cathedral but is not a city.

Brighton is missing a cathedral but it does have the Royal Pavilion, the home of the Prince Regent. Whether or not that would be an advantage is unclear. "Queen Victoria hated it but we are not sure of the Queen's opinion," a council spokesman said.

But Croydon is unwilling to let Brighton make all the running in the South East. Although it rose to fame as the site of the first London airport and grew rapidly after 1945, the council points to a history reaching to Roman times.

Valerie Shawcross, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said: "Croydon is one thousand years old. There was a Roman settlement here too. Croydon means 'Valley of the Crocuses', because the Romans marched into a beautiful valley full of yellow crocuses."



Brighton, ambitious to be "the capital city of the South East", is missing a cathedral but does have the Royal Pavilion

In the Midlands, Wolverhampton is hoping that winning city status will put it on an equal footing with its great up-start rival Birmingham. "Birmingham was a spot on the map in the Middle Ages

when Wolverhampton was a centre for the wool trade," she said. "The town suffers from one deficiency: it has few famous sons or daughters. Mind you, we have Button Gwinnett, one of the signatories of the American Declaration of Independence, and, of course, the pop group Slade," she said.

Two towns in the North West are vying for city status,

though if Blackburn is to get the honour, Jack Straw, its MP, will have to withdraw from involvement in the final decision. Stockport believes that it was runner-up in 1992 when Sunderland beat all the favourites to be awarded city status to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Wally Scott, Mayor of Sunderland, said: "It gave enormous civic pride

to the city and bought us publicity we could not buy. It gave an enormous impetus to getting inward investment."

The most recent towns created were St David's and Armagh in 1994 in recognition of their ecclesiastical heritage. Derby became a city in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Swansea in 1969 to mark the investiture of the Prince of Wales.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Twenty injured in Nazareth clashes

Jerusalem: Easter in the Holy Land was marred by riots in Nazareth between Christians and Muslims that left 20 people injured, property damaged, and raised a question mark over the largest Israeli Arab town's role in the millennium celebrations (Christopher Walker writes).

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land, Michel Sabbah, used his Easter message in the Holy Sepulchre to appeal for calm to ease communal tensions. What he described as the "critical situation" was sparked by Islamic hardliners' attempts to build a mosque with a 252ft minaret that would overshadow the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Indonesian toll rises

Ambon, Indonesia: Christians and Muslims fought with spears and machetes in Indonesia's eastern islands as the death toll from several days of bloodshed reached 34. The South East Moluccas Regent, Husaln Rahayuan, said hundreds of armed Muslims and Christians were fighting in villages close to Tual, the main Kai Islands town. Hundreds of police and soldiers were sent to the area. (Reuters)

Sons held over killing

Washington: Two 11-year-old brothers are being held in North Carolina charged with killing their father in a hail of gunfire and wounding their mother and sister, police said. The brothers allegedly shot their father, 46, in the head at the family home near Kittrell, about 40 miles north of Raleigh, North Carolina. Their 45-year-old mother and teenage sister were wounded and taken to hospital. (AFP)

Mahathir's foes unite





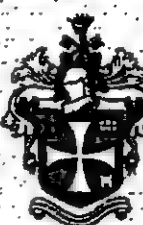
Malaysian opposition to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was united with the formation of a new political party led by the wife of his jailed former deputy (David Watts writes). The launching of the new group — the National Justice Party — by Dr Wan Azizah Anwar, coincided with rumours about the health of Dr Mahathir, who has been admitted to hospital with a chest infection.

Town hit by tornado

Benton, Louisiana: A tornado tore through this northwestern Louisiana town, flattening homes and trapping people when walls collapsed. At least nine people died, state police said. About 100 people were injured, five critically. Authorities were still looking for missing people hours later, using police dogs and huge searchlights from the nearby Barksdale air force base. (AP)

New leader dies

Almaty: Zhumabek Ibraimov, the Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister, has died of stomach cancer in the capital, Bishkek, a government spokesman said. Boris Silyayev, the First Deputy Prime Minister, is to take over temporarily. Mr Ibraimov, 56, had led the Government of the tiny ex-Soviet Central Asian republic for just three months since taking over from Kubanychbek Zumaliyev. (Reuters)

BLACKBURN	BRIGHTON	CROYDON	STOCKPORT	WOLVERHAMPTON
 Famous offspring: Ian McShane, actor; Kathleen Turner, opera singer Famous landmarks: Blackburn Cathedral	 Motto: Between Downs and Sea We Flourish Population: 251,000 Famous offspring: Samantha James, actress Famous landmarks: The Royal Pavilion	 Motto: Let Us Strive After Perfection Population: 320,000 Famous offspring: Dame Peggy Ashcroft, actress Famous landmarks: Town Hall with a 'nice clock tower'	 Motto: With Courage and Faith Population: 290,000 Famous offspring: Fred Perry, tennis player Famous landmarks: 27-arch railway viaduct built in 1840	 Motto: Out of Darkness Cometh Light Population: 244,500 Famous sons: Slade pop group Famous landmarks: Clubb's lock works

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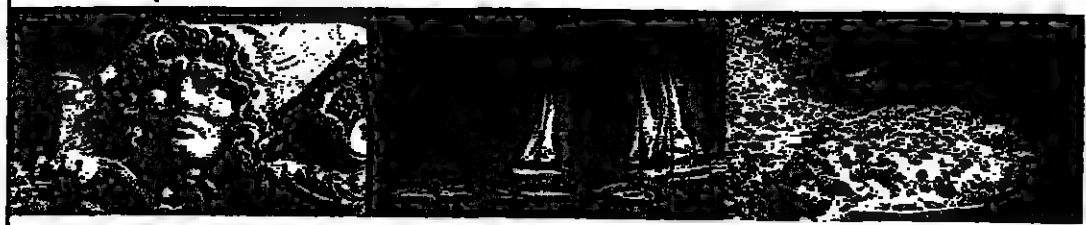
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Clockwise from above: double-layered sequin dress, £110, by Karen Millen nationwide (01622-664 032); black cowboy hat, £20, by Top Shop; brown nubuck cowboy/biker boots, £125, by Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street W1 (0171-629 6903)

Bias-cut devoré dress, £180, J by Jasper Conran at selected Debenhams stores nationwide (0171-408 4444); lilac and black lace-trim cardigan, £80, by Press & Bastyan, 22 South Molton Street W1 and nationwide (01622-763 211); brown boots by Russell & Bromley, as before

Floral painted linen top, £29.99, by Morgan stores nationwide (0171-383 288)

White linen and velvet panel skirt, £75, cream wool beaded tank top, £69, both by Whistles, 12-14 St Christopher's Place W1 (0171-487 4484); white leather ballerina pumps, £145, by Ernesto Esposito at Russell & Bromley, as before

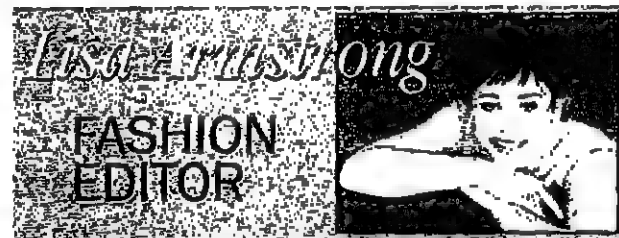


The high street's

There are, let's be frank, certain things that the high street can't do very well: a really well-tailored jacket, fine cashmere, beautiful velvets, a Hermès Kelly bag, one-offs... but the list of purchases that shouldn't be attempted grows smaller every year.

There was a time when a woman with a keen eye for a well-made, dainty shoe would happily work overtime and live on baked beans for a year to save enough money not to have to buy her footwear from a chain store. Then Linda Bennett's 11 branches of LK Bennett's began springing up three years ago, complete with up-to-the-minute kitten-heel slingbacks, jewel-coloured silk mufties and high, but not trollopy, strappy sandals that had even the most searching fashion eye fooled — and at last it became possible to buy a classy-looking pair of evening shoes for less than £100.

That £100 for three vermicelli-thin straps of silk or suede and a spindly heel now commonly changes hands on the high street is a sign of how far its horizons have broadened.



Keep a careful eye on the high street and you will find plenty of inexpensive, irresistible items that encapsulate this summer's trends

its prices risen and its quality and design improved. The "pile it high, sell it cheap" philosophy that made ye olde Seventies and Eighties British high street shops such a dispiriting, and in some cases hazardous, destination (remember those urban myths about catching lice in some of the grottier Afghan coat stockists?) has largely disappeared. The fact is that the gap between the best of the high street and the cheaper designer diffusion ranges has never been narrower, especially now that so many designers

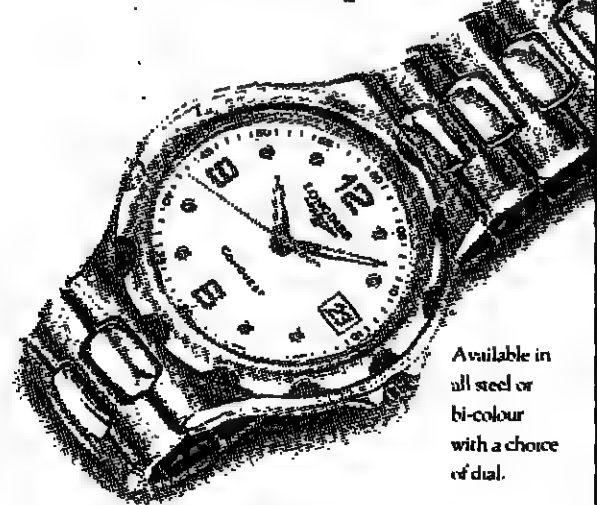
do collections for chainstores. Morgan, Zara and Jigsaw in particular try very hard to give an impression of airy, unhurried spaciousness by limiting the number of items on the shopfloor. So even though there might be another 13,000 of those fuchsia boob-tubes lurking in the stockroom, for the brief hours of pleasure you get between standing at the cash register while your precious new investment is wrapped in tissue paper (another high street revolution: decent packaging, along with

helpful-ish assistants) and wearing it out that night, when you meet all its identical siblings, you can enjoy the frisson that comes from having managed to buy a frippery and yet spent wisely. You would not feel thus if you had paid £700 for it in Calvin Klein.

In any case, no one has any illusions when they shop on the high street. In the same way that we've come to accept that the reason some designers can afford to place just two or three pieces on their rails is because each one costs enough to pay the store rent and all the sales staff, we also realise that that grey Narciso Rodriguez knock-off for £39.99 is neither exclusive nor built to last.

That said, in the snarlest corner of the high street, shops such as Whistles manufacture short, limited runs of certain designs, usually around 100, although in some cases — a piece that was produced primarily for the press, for instance — they may make up as few as five. Nor is there anything cheap or nasty about Press & Bastyan or Russell & Bromley. Yet they are all accessible. But to confine yourself

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L'ELEGANCE DU TEMPS DEPUIS 1832

ANGIE KIRK
Marketing and PR director
at Gina Shoes

What can't you leave the house without?
My small, black leather Prada diary which fits into every little bag. It has my life in it.

What do you wear if you're feeling down?
Colour therapy. Forget moping around in baggy black pants. I dress up in lilac and turquoise, paint my nails pink and wear orange shoes.

Whose style do you most admire?
Ingrid Bergman. She represents timeless, classic dressing and a graceful style that doesn't date.

Which city is the most stylish?
Paris. I love the atmosphere, the architecture and the



Angie Kirk adores the sights of Paris

What is your definition of chic?
Lauren Bacall in *To Have and Have Not*. Chic women have grace and poise.

What is your style motto?
Be brave, banish black.



by Deborah Brett

distinct smell. French women have a flair that is not clinical, but refined bohemian.

What is the most expensive item you have bought?
When I was 19 I bought a John Galiano black, backless fish-tail gown. It was something you would wear to the Oscars and it cost me at least £1,000.

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سكنى من الامل



LEFT: blue paisley skirt, £40, by Warehouse nationwide (0171-278 3491); off-the-shoulder jumper, £28.99, Jane Norman stores nationwide (0171-457 0132); fitted denim jacket, £24.99, by NU Jeans, New Look stores nationwide (0500-454 094); wire flower necklace, £6.99, by River Island nationwide (0181-991 4500). ABOVE: yellow linen dress, £90, by French Connection nationwide (0171-399 7200); floral Liberty-print silk handkerchief, £3.95, Liberty, Regent Street W1 (0171-734 1234)

FASHION DIARY

By Lisa Armstrong

FOLLOWING the virtual retirement from the catwalk of Kate Moss and the refusal of the Versaces to pay Naomi Campbell's premium rates, Helena Christensen has announced her appointment as the creative director of *Nylon*, a new US magazine, also available here, that calls itself a "cutting-edge colour pictorial aimed at young women". Christensen stopped pounding the catwalks two years ago to devote time to photography, but this is her first magazine job. In the first issue, on sale this week, she interviews Liv Tyler and photographs India. Apart from being possibly the most exciting thing about *Nylon*, Christensen's appointment shows how much slippage the "supermodel" tag has suffered. Like those shops that add the word "chic" to their names, the only models who claim to be "super" these days definitely aren't.

DONNA "hug-a-crystal" Karan has a reputation for being a little otherworldly. But at an exhibition in her Bond Street store last week to celebrate tribal colours, she seemed very focused indeed. While everyone else ignored the pictures, chatted on their mobiles and plunged headlong into the sushi, Donna launched into a series of probing questions about the British press. But this was no attempt to help her to compare advertising rates. No, what she really wanted to know was which British newspaper has the best horoscope.

16 best buys

solely to the top end is to miss out on a whole spectrum of life-enhancing encounters. Not least the one that arises when you come face to face with the paisley print skirt in Top Shop that's the spitting image of ones that graced the catwalks four months earlier (for about a quarter of the price).

Pragmatically, summer is the best time for bulking up on high street buys: on the whole, flimsy, floaty fabrics work just fine in their cheap incarnations. And for quotidian holiday dressing (think oily sun lozons, sea spray, the wear and tear of pool life and round-the-clock daiquiris), there really is no other option. So save the designer stuff for the occasional evening out and to make yourself feel better once you return home.

The 16 pieces shown on these pages were chosen either because they represent great value for money or a key summer trend — or we simply found them irresistible. The yellow linen dress from French Connection is in one of this summer's most cutting-edge colours: the stone linen busier with the painted flow-

ers and beige net at the back is not a million miles from Dolce e Gabbana's.

The white, double-layer sleeveless dress from Karen Millen is a wearable, affordable nod to fashion's new take on block colours; the cream

You can enjoy the frisson that comes from buying a frippery while spending wisely

and white patchwork linen and velvet skirt from Whistles is the perfect answer to any rustic-Boho aspirations; the cowboy/biker mid-brown boots from Russell & Bromley are the only footwear (apart from a pair of sandals) you'll need for next year, and we just loved the raffia handbags.

In the main, then, the point of the British high street (still

the best in the world: even the imports, such as Zara and Kookai seem to acquire a more interesting point of view once they arrive here) is that it is the place to head for unquestioning retail therapy.

It is where you are allowed to make a purchase lightly and to cast aside considerations about relative investment value. It is where you will never have to divide the cost of something by the number of times you might possibly wear it to justify the outlay, and where you may toss away mistakes without feeling too guilty.

Perhaps the best lesson from high street shopping is to be found in those communal changing rooms on a Saturday, when wave after wave of teenage girls clatter in to try on another new look, en route to another night out in yet another ritual weekly makeover.

Fashion — just in case those chi-chi minimalist designer shrines with their one-sweater-on-a-plinth approach to retailing and hushed aura around the till have made you forget — is meant to be fun.



ABOVE: hessian bag with embroidered rose detail and leather handles, £14.99, by River Island, as before; cream linen bag with coffee-bean detailing, £15, by Principles nationwide (0800 731 8286)

LEFT: cream wicker flower bag, from £9.99, by Top Shop, details as before; floral wedge sandals, £14.99, by Barratts stores nationwide (01274 614 110)

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Meaning lost in the dark

I looked good — Barbara Bonney, resplendent in her blonde hair and gold evening dress, spotlight in front of the piano on the stage of a darkened Bridgewater Hall. But, oh dear, we couldn't read the titles of the songs let alone the texts and translations so usefully slipped into the programme. Except for those with an instant understanding of German or with a thoroughly detailed knowledge of the repertoire we were missing at least half the point of her studiously prepared and faultlessly delivered interpretations.

It was not a full house but, since 18 short songs do not add up to a full concert even with two encores thrown in, that was natural justice. It was, on the other hand, an unusually good audience in that it was both quietly attentive and polite enough to reserve its applause until the end of each group of songs. It deserved better and, happily, it was awarded the basic facility of adequate lighting in the second half of the recital.

A suitable compensation would have been a repeat performance of Grieg's *Sechs Lieder*, Op 48, which had been heard just before the interval. Bonney's Brahms, which produced the one example of a forced sound in the whole evening, was unexceptional. But the Grieg songs, for which she clearly has a special affection even when the words are German rather than Norwegian, were most persuasively done. It is true that, given the

CONCERTS
Barbara Bonney
Manchester

decorously amorous tone of the voice and Melvyn Tan's suggestive phrasing of the piano part, *Die verschleierte Nachtigall* needed little further illumination. The melodic beauty of *Ein Traum*, though quite specific in its inspiration, was an experience itself. But when the soprano so meaningfully applied the dark colour resources of her lower register to the not so lyrical line of *Gedanke mein*, we really needed to know what grave thoughts she had in mind.

Perhaps the most impressive example of Bonney's partnership with Tan was in Wolf's *Kennst du das Land*. Presented as the culmination of the full set of Mignon songs, with both of them well into the characterisation by this point, it was performed not only passionately but with a paradoxical combination of fearless spontaneity and precisely calculated timing. If the group of four Strauss songs had less to offer in terms of dramatic collaboration, they were no less effective for their intimacy. And, accomplished recitalists that they both are, they reserved the ecstasy of *Zueignung* for the first of their encores.

GERALD LARNER

Swept along by the drama

The annual performance of Bach's St John Passion given on Good Friday at St John's, Smith Square by Stephen Layton's choral group Polyphony is rapidly becoming a popular tradition. The occasion is now a sell-out, and compared with the slightly flawed one I heard two years ago, this year's gave immense satisfaction. Indeed, I would rate it among the finest John Passions I have ever heard.

Layton's great achievement is to pace the drama of the Passion story with unerring instinct. The judgment scene in Part 2 had a tremendous narrative sweep, gathering momentum with the crowd choruses and reaching an electrifying climax at the mention of Barabbas and the scourging. Then after the two meditative solos with violoncello, sensitively played by Theresa Caudle and Jane Norman, it was back for another sequence of crowd scenes enacted with thrilling immediacy: the mock salutations of "Sei gegrüßet", the bloodthirsty exhortations of "Kreuzige" (Crucify) and vigorously fugal choruses thereafter.

So accomplished is Polyphony that it can respond to what is asked of it with no technical inhibitions. The choral inquiries "Wo hin?" (Whither?) in the bass aria "Eilt, ihr angefochtenen Seelen" (Haste, ye oppressed souls), for example, were delivered with virtuosic lightness of touch. Shorn, addi-

tionally, of their conventional pauses, they conveyed to perfection the breathless flight on the "wings of faith".

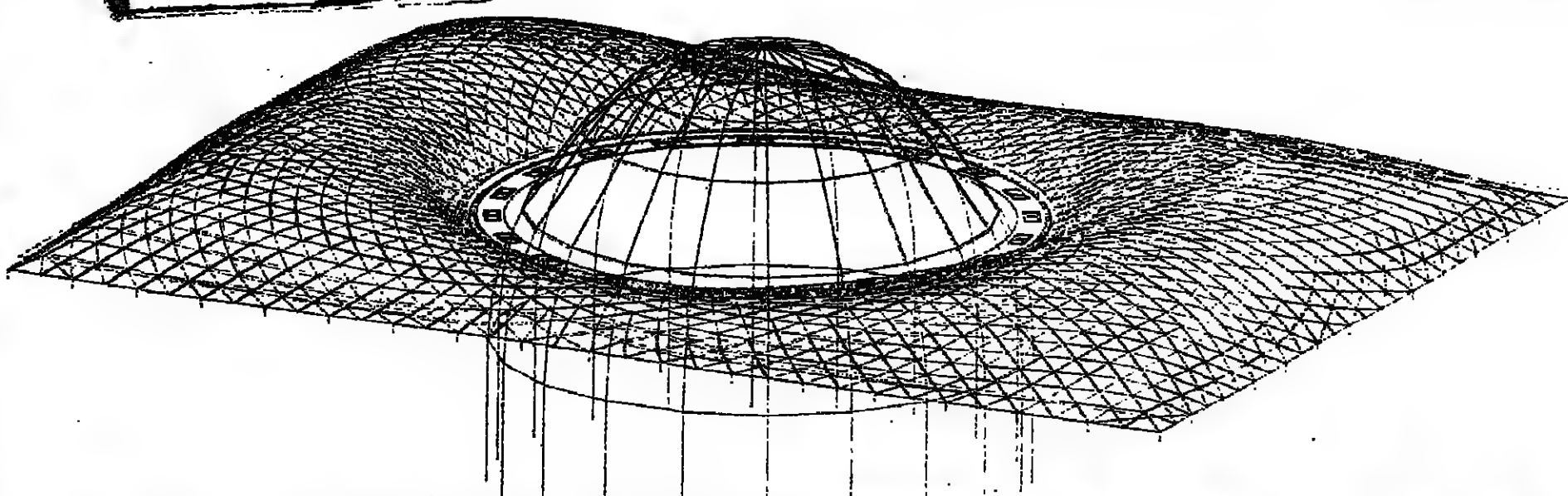
Crucial to the continuity of the drama is the Evangelist, and John Mark Ainsley's contribution was exemplary: urgent, angry, poignant as required. His control of the tortured chromaticisms at Peter's weeping was impeccable — the ensuing tenor aria (James Gilchrist) and chorale forming another unbroken unit to bring Part 1 to an effective end. David Wilson-Johnson's Jesus was characteristically forthright and authoritative.

Emma Kirby skipped delightfully in Christ's footsteps in "Ich folge dir gleichfalls" (I follow thee joyfully) — another example of a swift tempo being deployed for expressive rather than purely virtuosic effect. Catherine Wyn-Rogers supplied stylish contralto solos, and Neal Davies was the excellent bass soloist, doubling as Pilate.

The players of Canzona gave nothing but pleasure. Katharina Spreckelsen and Jane Downer deserve special mention for their skilful handling of the oboe d'amore.

BARRY MILLINGTON

حديقة الأمل



As if by magic larger than that of St Paul's Cathedral, the dome of the Reading Room rises through the Great Court roof, a series of radial ribs constrained by spirals running in both directions

How to raise a roof the size of Wembley

Providing a covering for the newly revealed Great Court of the British Museum was a £97m logistical conundrum. Nigel Hawkes reports on the solution

The British Museum may be precious to Londoners, but its curators have always treated it with cheerful contempt. For them the collections have come first, and from the very moment it was completed Sir Robert Smirke's classical building has been chopped and changed to fit them in. Handsome rooms have been split with mezzanine floors, windows butchered and an entire portico demolished to make room for an extension.

Today the remaking of the museum goes on at undiminished speed. Now that the library has disappeared to St Pancras, the book stacks which surrounded the Reading Room in Smirke's Great Court have been demolished. A light and airy roof of huge dimensions is being built across the court, linking the Reading Room to the surrounding buildings. Of all the many changes the museum has seen in 150 years this is the greatest.

Casual visitors are entitled to be bemused by references to the Great Court, for few realise that the building has a courtyard the size of Wembley Stadium at its heart. Originally intended by Smirke to be an elegant open space within the building, where people might promenade, the court was a failure from the start. The huge porticos on each side created a deep shade in which no grass would grow. "A dark, damp and dismal place where keepers' children played, its silence broken only by the cries of cats," one contemporary sneered. "A mere well of malaria, a pestilent congregation of vapours," said another.

Far from perambulating, the public was not even allowed access. The truth was that the keepers planned to fill

the court with buildings as quickly as they could. The Reading Room and the stacks soon occupied it so completely that few have ever seen it.

The Great Court project, which will cost £97 million, aims to turn this lost space into "a great new public plaza for London" in the words of the architect Norman Foster. At its centre will be the circular Reading Room, a huge building with a dome larger

'The design was speeded up by computers. Doing it by hand would have taken a lifetime'

than that of St Paul's Cathedral.

Surrounding it will be the largest covered courtyard in Europe, greater in length than Buckingham Palace. Creating such a roof, supported by Smirke's building along its edges and by the Reading Room in the middle — although not at the precise geometric centre — is a tricky task. Not only must it leave the classical facades and the Reading Room undamaged, but it must not rise high enough to be visible from Bloomsbury. It must be vast, yet almost flat.

To add to the difficulties, the roof has to be created out of pieces small enough to be carried to the site in lorries, and lifted over into the courtyard by crane. The only access, for demolition material coming out or construction material

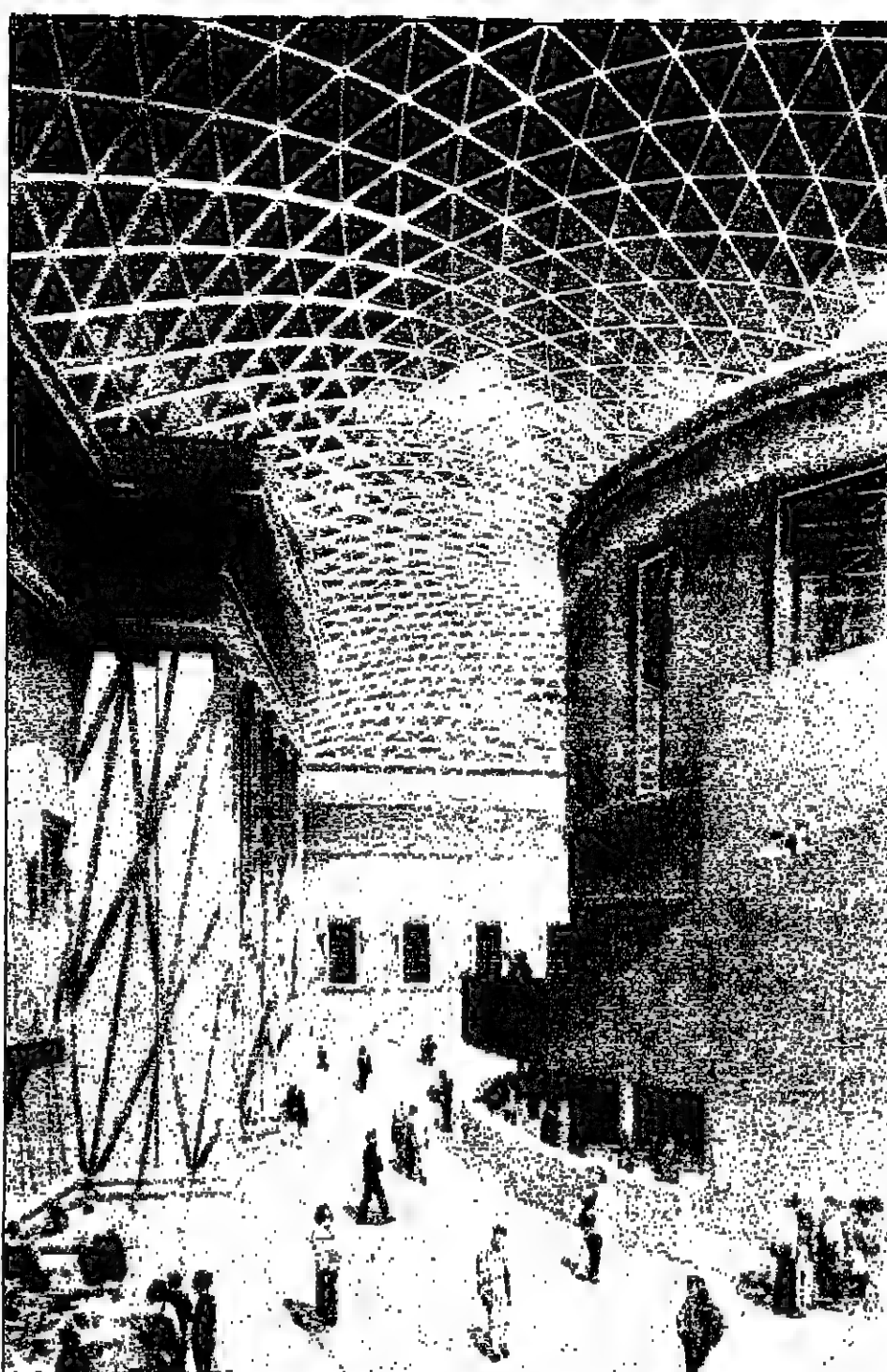
going in, is by crane. A "crash deck" has been laid across the building to catch anything the crane might drop before it can crash through the roof and destroy the collections below.

The solution, created by the consulting engineers Buro Happold, is a roof created as a strong lattice of high-grade steel linked by 1,826 "nodes", or joints — each different. The design was speeded up by computers. "You could do it by hand, but it would take a lifetime that way," says Stephen Brown of Buro Happold.

The structure can be thought of as a series of radial members spanning out from the Reading Room roof to the surrounding facades of the museum, constrained by two spirals of cross-members, working in either direction. Each individual piece will be prefabricated in advance by Wagner-Biro, an Austrian company, numbered, taken to the site and assembled. After being slotted together they will be welded at the nodes.

Around the top of the Reading Room, Smirke's brother Sydney designed a "Snow Gallery", a two-metre-wide flat roof encircling the dome and designed to catch the snow sliding off the dome and prevent it crashing down on to the lightly roofed book stacks below.

This gallery, suitably strengthened, will form a ring balancing thrusts from either side of the roof, while the weight of the roof will be carried by a ring of 20 steel columns lying against the Reading Room walls and concealed beneath a new stone cladding. The Reading Room was never meant to be seen from the outside, so nothing is lost by con-



A computer-generated image of what the British Museum's Great Court will look like

cealing its rough brickwork from view.

At the other ends of the ribs, the roof will rest on sliding bearings, allowing it to spread laterally as the props are removed and it takes its own weight — 420 tons of steel, and another 320 tons of double glazing in the form of 3,312 tri-

angular panes of glass. This should mean that the roof will add no new distorting forces to either the Reading Room or the museum facade.

When complete, the roof should float in a voluptuous series of curves, with no visible means of support, above the court below. The environment

inside will be comfort-heated and cooled, but not fully air-conditioned. Together with its reconstructed South Portico, the Great Court may at last achieve the effect for which Smirke strived — a perambulatory of which to be proud.

Leading article, page 21

Something for the youngest ones

The vast army of under-ten pop fans who were initially mobilised by the Spice Girls has now acquired a taste for going to concerts that would have seemed unnaturally precocious even five years ago. And Steps, the three-girl/two-boy vocal group who recently embarked on their first tour, are proving to be one of this pre-teen market's most favoured bands.

Sandwiched between Lauren, aged 7, and Jack, aged 6, at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Friday, I was intrigued to see how well-equipped and clued-up they and all their friends were. Armed with fluorescent tubes, whistles and shakers they responded with noisy bravado to a series of pre-show messages flashed up on screens to either side of the stage. "Are you ready to scream?" Evidently they were. "Have you been to the toilet?" Yes, they had.

Steps, for their part, have absorbed the dictum that in or-

der to attract this kind of audience, it is necessary to adopt a musical format that does not repel the parents who will be required to purchase tickets at £14.50 a shot and provide the necessary supervision and taxi service on the night.

Thus, as the group set off at a lively romp with the chirpy harmonies and catchy pop choruses of *Better Best Forgotten* and *Last Thing On My Mind*

POP
Steps
Empire

(an old Bananarama song), a comforting sense of continuity with the past was established. As any thirty-something would instantly have recognised, this

was basically the sound of Abba hitched to a modern house beat.

Although Abba were a joke at the time, their oeuvre is now celebrated in West End musicals, Brit Award shows and karaoke bars everywhere. Steps, for all the superficial similarities, are not in the same league, and as far as this performance was concerned, a more appropriate comparison

would be with Bucks Fizz or any of those other duty-free Eurovision acts.

Aided by a five-strong troupe of dancers, Steps tackled their simple song and intricate dance routines with a bright, energetic zeal, conducting the event with the relentlessly enforced jollity of a Saturday morning kids' TV show: "Who hasn't got a copy of our album? Give them a boo." The set encompassed everything worth performing from their album *Step One*, padded out with a medley of Disney cartoon themes and an insipid version of *I'll Be There For You*, the theme from TV's *Friends*.

Call me old-fashioned, but I found the absence of any musicians in the building, let alone on the stage, a distinct disappointment. However, the fact that the entire performance was sung over backing tapes mattered not a jot to Lauren and Jack, who were up on their feet dancing along to the finale of *Heartbeat*, *One For Sorrow* and *Tragedy*, while giant balloons and showers of silver confetti rained down on audience and band alike.

"London, you've been the best audience in the world," one of the Steps boys said from the stage. Even Lauren and Jack looked as if they might have heard that one before as they gamely raised one last screen.

DAVID SINCLAIR



The Steps in action: "This was basically the sound of Abba hitched to a modern house beat"

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CHANGING TIMES

Europe must face a cruel truth

Kosovo ends the myth of security without sacrifice

Kosovo is a turning point for European security. Its outcome will determine its shape in the post-Cold War world, just as the Berlin blockade of 1948-49 defined the Cold War era. For most of the 1990s, the West has believed that security can be obtained without much risk or cost. These illusions have been shattered by Kosovo, in the very month that Nato is marking its 50th anniversary with a summit in Washington that is supposed to agree a new "strategic concept".

The illusions date from the end of the Cold War. That was when President George Bush coined the phrase "the new world order" to describe the successful reversal of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. But these words were remembered almost as quickly as "the end of history", that other fashionable self-deception of 1989-91.

The Gulf War coalition turned out to be unique. The West did not have an answer to the prolonged fighting in the former Yugoslavia, the various civil wars in the former Soviet Union, let alone the slaughters of Africa, from Rwanda to Somalia.

Bosnia, in particular, cruelly exposed European pretensions. At the start of the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1991, Jacques Poos, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, proclaimed "this is the hour of Europe, not the hour of the Americans".

The Bush Administration was willing to allow the European Union to take the lead, partly in the spirit of "see how you get on without us". There followed four years of killing, transatlantic tensions and thankless work by British and other forces on the ground before the American-brokered Dayton agreement of 1995. The Americans claim it was only the belated bombing that worked. But the tide of the war had already changed by then. The Bosnian Serbs, having achieved most of their objectives, were being forced on the defensive by the Croat offensive and by the Bosnian Muslims.

Three lessons were drawn. First, the international community could, and should, intervene in what had previously been regarded as internal conflicts when these threatened humanitarian disasters. Human rights has become as important as, if not more important than, national sovereignty — as also shown by the Lords ruling in the Pinochet case and the Northern Ireland talks. The pressure to act is higher when abuses are close to home and harrowing pictures of refugees appear on television. Among the strongest advocates of the Nato action have been politicians who made their name on rights issues and in the anti-nuclear, peace campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s, such as Robin Cook here and Joschka Fischer in Germany.

Secondly, whatever happened in the rest of the world, Nato (led by the United States) would have to take the lead in Europe, even without specific United Nations authorisation. The UN has neither the resources nor the will to stop fighting, while the re-emer-

gence of the Russian and Chinese veto in the Security Council may prevent any action being approved.

The EU is unable to act on its own. No one imagines that the EU could have kept Greece in line over Kosovo, as Nato just about has so far. The EU common foreign and security policy is still sketchy, while only Britain and, to a lesser extent, France have well trained forces which can be deployed quickly to operations such as Kosovo. Otherwise, Europe is way behind America in having up-to-date and mobile equipment for such conflicts.

Thirdly, politicians in Washington concluded both from Bosnia and Iraq that precision bombing and cruise missiles could change the course of conflicts. The small number of American casualties in the Gulf created the myth of the high-tech war, and cheap and clinical intervention, while the Somalia debacle in 1993 underlined both the risks in committing ground troops and the public's hostile reaction.

That has, however, created an incompatibility of ends and means. On the one hand, Western leaders accept the need to intervene to stop mass slaughter and migration. But, on the other hand, the past ten days have shown that bombing alone cannot prevent such aggression and a humanitarian disaster. Nato leaders have looked muddled and impotent, being unable or unwilling to mobilise the means to achieve the ends.

Whatever doubts were expressed earlier, Nato now has to complete the job. At a minimum that means ensuring that the refugees can return to their homes in Kosovo and be protected there by an international force. That may involve the use of ground troops at some stage.

It is not tenable to argue that Kosovo is none of our business. It is in the strategic interests of Britain, and of Europe, to reverse the Serbian aggression. There are direct risks to the stability of surrounding countries and south-eastern Europe. Moreover, a massive influx of refugees north and eastwards threatens social and political stability in the heart of Europe, and has become a key factor in Germany, Austria and Italy.

The credibility of Nato is also at stake. This is not some macho thing. Security depends on evidence of cohesion, political will and, if necessary, the successful use of force. A failure in Kosovo would undermine Nato and post-Cold War stability in Europe. No wonder the three new entrants to Nato (the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) are watching the conflict so nervously. There are also lessons for the EU. While European security still depends on the United States, and on Nato, the Americans will rightly expect the Europeans to strengthen their own armed forces, to be more of a partner. The days of the post-Cold War peace dividend in Europe are over.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



Peter Riddell



I THINK THAT WE'VE BACKED HIM INTO A CORNER

WILLIS

The Serbian endgame

Milosevic always gambled on partition, and plans are already being drawn up

Over last weekend the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Nato authorities have all repeated their assurances that there will be no invasion of Yugoslavia by Nato ground troops. Why were they able to do so with such confidence? Not because the Nato bombing will force President Milosevic to the conference table; he has always intended to go there. Not because the bombing can prevent the continued, and terrible, expulsion of the Albanian population.

There will be no Nato invasion of Kosovo, if only because such an invasion would take months to mount: by the end of this month, the Serbian campaign in Kosovo will be over. What will then have to be decided is not whether to invade, but the negotiation of the peace terms that President Milosevic will offer, after having created the situation he wanted on the ground.

Tony Blair's article in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph* shows that he is well aware of the situation, Nato is going to face. He used the article to lay down the peace terms as he would see them. They represent Nato's negotiating position. "Milosevic must be made to do the following before we stop. He must cease his campaign of ethnic cleansing; withdraw his troops; and agree to an international force that can guarantee that the dispossessed of Kosovo can return in safety now and for the future, under a proper plan that ensures that their rights are respected."

By the end of April, four weeks from now, the first condition will already have been met. The campaign of ethnic cleansing will be completed; it will have been taken to whatever point President Milosevic thinks most advantageous to Serbia. It will then stop.

Mr Blair is not insisting that the "international force" which will supervise the return of the dispossessed Albanians must be a Nato force. That was the intention at Rambouillet, but the bombing has made that impossible for Yugoslavia. Presumably it will be a UN peacekeeping force, probably with a Russian presence, possibly backed by potential Nato strength.

Nato has already recognised that the Albanians will not return to Kosovo if they are going, once again, to be governed by the Serbs. In theory, that might mean that Nato was committing itself to an independent Kosovo, or a Kosovo

protectorate on the present boundaries. That would obviously not be compatible with the Serbian war aims, but could be achieved only after victory in a ground war against Yugoslavia. It would take that to reverse Serbia's ethnic cleansing by force. Fortunately, there is the alternative of partition: it is not a perfect alternative, but it has been the 20th-century solution to ethnic conflict in many countries, including Cyprus, India, Ireland, Palestine and, most notably, Bosnia.

If we assume that President Milosevic's policy in Kosovo has throughout been based on his experience in Bosnia, it becomes much easier to understand. When he rejected the Rambouillet terms, he must have calculated that Nato would feel forced to implement the long-delayed threat of bombing, however reluctantly. He was prepared to use the Nato bombing as an opportunity to change the balance of population in Kosovo in Serbia's favour. Months of preparation must have gone into the lightning campaign of ethnic cleansing. He would have calculated that Nato would be under strong pressure from the hundreds of thousands of refugees. He knew he would have Russia's diplomatic support. He presumably assumed, from the beginning, that Kosovo, like Bosnia, would eventually have to be partitioned. The purpose of this limited war, from his point of view, would have been to improve the terms of the partition which had become inevitable.

So far everything has gone to plan, to Milosevic's plan. Nato did start the bombing and it has provided diplomatic cover for Serbian national support for the ethnic cleansing campaign. Serbia has by now achieved the expulsion of a large part of the Albanian population of Kosovo. The bombing, not surprisingly, has raised Milosevic's status as the leader of his own Serbian people. Russia has given diplomatic support, and Russian public opinion is strongly pro-Serbian. Nato has not invaded, nor taken a decision to invade. Nato is not at present able to stop, let alone reverse, the ethnic cleansing. The bombing has so far done relatively minor long-term damage to the economic infrastructure of Serbia, and presumably Nato does not intend to inflict total damage.

The choice that will be offered to Nato is, in effect, an offer it cannot refuse. Nato can have a Russian-brokered peace settlement on terms quite close to Tony Blair's, if it is prepared to accept the partition of Kosovo along the lines of the partition of Bosnia. The refugees would then be able to return to an Albanian sector of Kosovo, however that might be determined, where they would enjoy autonomy under UN protection. This will not be a defeat either for Nato or Yugoslavia. Both sides will have made concessions, but will have achieved much of what they wanted. At the price of the partition of Kosovo, Milosevic will have consolidated the boundaries of an ethnically united Serbia, and Nato will have limited the Kosovo conflict and restored the refugees, if not completely. From the humanitarian point of view, a great evil has already been committed: this settlement would improve the condition of the refugees, but ground war would make it even more desperate.

Nato does, of course, have the other option, of war. Not just war in the air, but war on the ground, an invasion of Kosovo, a war against Yugoslavia. That is still not inconceivable, if Milosevic does not now follow his own exit strategy. In some months' time, if there were no sign of serious peace talks, Nato would almost certainly have to build up the threat of ground war, just as it built up the threat of bombing. If that threat did not produce a peace

settlement, an invasion might even have to be carried out. There will, therefore, be staff plans, and deliberate leaks of staff plans, for full-scale ground war. But that will be a last resort: it will only actually happen if Milosevic forces it on Nato.

Milosevic is a ruthless war criminal, but so far he has followed a consistent but limited objective, the consolidation of a strong Serbian national state out of the ethnic break-up of Yugoslavia. That could only now be secured by a successful peace negotiation. It is in his interest to achieve that negotiation.

Nato has equally strong reasons to want a settlement. No one knows what to do for the dispossessed Kosovans: they are too great a burden for the poor neighbouring states. No Nato power wants to welcome them in large numbers as permanent refugees. War would not get them home, but would cause immense further suffering, and risk a wider Balkan conflict. It would also require a massive military effort and involve heavy casualties.

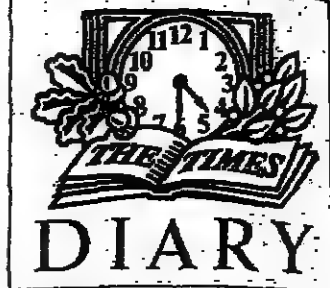
The war decision would be taken in the United States, which would have to provide a substantial proportion of the troops, and an even higher proportion of the technology. Even if Nato could be held together on such a policy, United States opinion is against a ground war and is likely to remain so. Americans remember the Vietnam disaster, let alone Somalia.

The United States is prepared, in the last resort, to go to war to protect a major American interest, to resist aggression, or to bring to an end an intolerable crime against humanity. That is the reason for the Nato bombing. If President Milosevic, with Russian support, offers peace terms, the United States will not risk heavy losses, or the creation of a second Vietnam in the Balkans, in order to take revenge on the undoubtedly wickedness of Serbia's ethnic-cleansing policy. In the Second World War, the policy of the United States was "unconditional surrender". This is not the Second World War. Kosovo — however tragic — is one of the limited wars which have followed the ethnic break-up of Yugoslavia, and both Nato and Serbia, as well as the Russians, are already planning on the assumption of a negotiated peace.

comment@the-times.co.uk



William Rees-Mogg



What a drag

AFTER fighting sabs for decades, New Forest huntmen face a new enemy: each other. In an encounter reverberating around the country, they have split acrimoniously between diehards refusing to contemplate compromise and more forward-looking types who reluctantly accept that change is the only way of preserving their sport.

As the Government edges towards limiting hunting, Michael Thomas (below) hopes to establish a drag-hunt from the embers of the New Forest Buckhounds, which ceased chasing fallow deer in 1997. But its former chairman has been repeatedly blocked by the local old guard who consider hunting without a quarry heretical.

"It's never been all about killing animals," says Thomas. "It's about hound-work and horsemanship." Anne Millar, who leads the opposition, says: "A drag-hunt does not count as genuine hunting. It is only genuine if there is the scent of an animal. With the drag, it is the scent of aniseed or something."



AFTER a security review at Eastbourne police station, three doors were added. But the move was undermined when it was found that the locks were mounted on the wrong side of the doors.

CLASMEN of Tony Blair's builder are taking charge of British architecture. Deyan Sudjic, a member of Lord Rogers of Riverside's circle, is expected to be appointed by Chris Smith as his new architectural custodian.

Sudjic, the founder editor of *Blueprint* magazine and one-time partner of the daughter of the second husband of Rogers's first wife, would replace Lord St John of Fawley in our affections: the new quango is to subsume the Royal Fine Art Commission.

Sudjic's appointment would follow the election of Marco Goldschmidt, the managing director of Richard Rogers Partnership, as President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Lucy Musgrave, Rogers Jr's partner, already runs the Architecture Foundation.

A WELSH MP wants his colleagues' wages docked to reflect their imminent emasculation. Once a Taffy assembly is set up, Labour's Allan Rogers has urged Alan Michael, the Welsh Secretary, to adopt the policy because he and his kind will be effectively job-sharing. Imagine the kerfuffle if Donald Dewar considered such a plan for Scottish MPs.



GENERAL PINOCHET almost stopped Geoffrey Robertson from fine-tuning democracy in Mauritius. The leftward-leaning QC was due to fly out on Good Friday to advise on the constitution.

But before he had to deliver to his publishers *Crimes against Humanity*, which includes a chapter on the generalissimo. With all the legal upsets, Robertson was working up to the last minute. "It's an occasional hazard for writers on expanding areas of the law," Robertson told me, as he dined for the last call with Kathy Lette, his novelist wife.

THE Prince of Wales's least favourite journalist is to pursue a Fellowship at the New York Public Library. Anthony Holden will research a life of Leigh Hunt, the Romantic poet, fined £500 and imprisoned in 1813 for attacking the then heir to the throne.

EDWARD WELSH

'If you buy anything of value, you drink to it. This applies to cars, fur coats... anything the purchaser feels he can't afford, if the truth be known'

Buy it and you have to obmyt it. Russians are very superstitious people and any purchase that has not been satisfactorily obmyted is liable to find itself lost, stolen, vandalised or otherwise rendered useless to the owner.

This superstitious attitude to life is highly infectious, and it takes only a month or two of residence to find oneself forbidding people from whistling indoors (you will be penniless for ever), refusing to sit at the corner of a table (you will never marry), avoiding shaking hands across the threshold (a bad omen for friendship) and always putting empty bottles on the floor (not sure about this one, but it is probably something to do with avoiding confusion in your drunken stupor over which bottles are still of use and which are not).

The obmytye, however, is a

different issue entirely. As much a tradition as a mere superstition, a part of national heritage and a process considered to be a cheap alternative to expensive, and anyway hugely unreliable, insurance.

To the Westerner it can be the cause of great confusion. The first time I ever came across it (I realised in retrospect) was ten years ago when I was forced to participate in a vile, drunken evening at a Korean restaurant that served only mushrooms in soy sauce, and sliced cucumber (there were shortages in Moscow back then). The entertainment was a strip show that began at 6pm and involved some bored teenagers in yellow leotards writhing round the largely empty tables.

Sasha, a terrifying thug, spent the whole evening toasting his new car, which seemed to me the height of vulgarity and bad taste.

It brought out the worst in me, and, as a kind of anti-materialistic backlash, had me up on my feet every few minutes making toasts to world peace, the love of my neighbour and the spirituality in all of us.

It seemed depressing that people who only a year or so earlier had amazed me with their apparent absence of consumer psychosis and their heightened appreciation for the finer things in life had so quickly transformed into the worst kind of suburban American property enthusiasts. Not only was property suddenly not theft, it seemed to be a human right. Little did I know.

Years later I got off a boat in the Volga town of Togliatti and bought a ceramic blue and gold

Anna Blundy



me for a drink.

It all became clear when a friend recounted a fur-coat-buying trip to Greece. Olga and her husband had taken a cruise around the Mediterranean with the object of buying this coat (they are apparently cheaper there than in Russia and are obligatory winter wear for women here). Safely back en route for Russia, Olga's husband spent

three days obmyting the coat with some friends he had made at the bar. I imagined him hanging over the side of this ship washing it in the sea for three days. When she explained what he was actually doing, it was even stupider.

Basically, if you buy anything of value you have to drink to it. This is similar in concept to wetting the baby's head, but in Russia it applies to cars, fur coats, televisions and anything else that the purchaser feels he cannot really afford, if the truth be known.

Obmytye is taken very seriously indeed here. Another friend of mine recently had her car stolen and called the police to report the crime. "Did you obmyt the vehicle, madam?" they asked, as though asking whether or not it was legally insured. "Actually,

no," she replied. "We had to go away the day after we bought it and we never got round to it."

The policemen rolled their eyes, tutted and shrugged their shoulders. They seemed to be saying: "Why should we investigate the theft of this car when its very owners cannot be bothered to look after it properly?" Everybody has proof of the obmytye — stories about the appalling disasters that befall items they stupidly neglected.

Now your Western cynic might think that this is just another Russian excuse for drinking as much as possible, but I attended a fur-coat obmytye last week, and sitting around it, drinking champagne and discussing its virtues, one did feel that even if it did get stolen or lost in the near future, at least it had been fully appreciated first.

comment@the-times.co.uk



PHASE THREE

Nato has two weeks in which to save Kosovo

Ten days after its military intervention began Nato is only now beginning to inflict the scale of damage necessary to alter Serbian calculations. The shift to Phase Three, an intensive bombardment directed at the entire infrastructure of the Serbian state, has brought obvious results. A network of military establishments has been crippled, key bridges destroyed, and oil installations disabled. The authorities in Belgrade, for whom this had been almost a phoney war for the first week, are no longer under such illusions. The various Nato public, especially in those nations providing the majority of military materiel, have, if anything, become more not less determined to see this enterprise through. The calculated, cynical, and criminal manner in which President Milosevic has attempted to eradicate his Kosovan Albanian population has persuaded many who might have harboured doubts that there is no turning back now.

Nato has not, however, enjoyed the best of fortune. Adverse weather conditions have hindered the air campaign. The sheer determination of Serbia to get rid of the Kosovans has undoubtedly taken generals and politicians alike by surprise. A small army of armchair analysts, all operating with the considerable benefit of hindsight, has spent much of this past weekend wondering why the refugee exodus was not anticipated. In truth, even if Nato had known exactly what Mr Milosevic intended to do, there was little that could have stopped him. The hope was that the first two phases of this campaign could be completed at sufficient speed as to limit that damage. This, unfortunately, has not proved to be the case.

As a result the Serbian leadership has managed to displace approximately one third of the Kosovan Albanian population. If matters continue at this pace then Mr Milosevic will have removed the entire dissident population from his renegade province. Nato resources would then need to be redeployed from air power to a very

different form of ground war, a battle against mass hunger and disease. Nato has the orders and the opportunity to alter the balance of this awful equation. The weather is improving and the military is operating on the longest practical political leash. The United States and Britain, as senior Nato members, must ensure that the moment is seized and the momentum intensified. Absolutely nothing else will persuade the Yugoslav Army that it must sue for peace.

Mr Milosevic will not step aside quietly. It must be assumed that he will remain in power in Belgrade. If he has drained even half of the Kosovan Albanians from his soil then he will offer the rest not autonomy but partition. He will attempt to keep those parts of northern Kosovo that have an historic hold upon, and economic value to his country. He will offer Nato the almost impossible task of reconstructing human life in the remainder. Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, will doubtless be solicited as the middleman for this spurious "compromise". The Serbian leadership will eat out of his hands. Mr Milosevic must be told, in unmistakable tones, that no such arrangement can ever be accepted.

The next two weeks are of fundamental importance to Nato. If Phase Three does not work then, in air power terms, there does not appear to be a Phase Four available. The Nato command would be faced with a fateful choice between ground troops and an all-out invasion of Kosovo or scaling back its aims and accepting the resulting humiliation. The preparations for the former should begin because the latter would be little short of a disaster. Nato's credibility as a military organisation would be shattered. There is still time for an air barrage of sufficient accuracy and scope to make all the difference. Nato has begun to alter the calculus of this conflict. Strong nerves are needed this week to ensure that this advantage really counts.

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

The Church needs a tax break

The Christian Church is about to mark the onset of its third millennium. The VAT system is barely 25 years old. But, in its relatively brief span, the latter has come to prove itself a serious strain on ecclesiastical funds. Though when VAT was first mooted in the early 1970s many may have hoped that charitable organisations might have been exempted, they were proved lamentably wrong. The annual VAT bill payable on repairs done to listed church buildings alone now amounts to some £16 million. If unlisted and non-Anglican churches are included, this bill rises by almost as much again. Britain's places of worship are facing an incapacitating monetary crisis. And at a time of declining congregations and dwindling collections, churches are floundering in a financial mire. Surely the forthcoming celebration of Christianity's 2000th birthday would provide an opportunity moment to try to redress this wrong?

The Government already offers some help in the form of funds delivered through such organisations as National Heritage. But by imposing VAT on repairs to church buildings what it gives so generously with one hand, is filched back with the other. This illogicality arose as the result of an inconsistency in the tax system: new works and alterations to listed buildings are zero-rated, but repairs incur the full rate of VAT at 17.5 per cent which means that, while building a new parish hall might incur no tax, the repair of the leaking church roof can prove prohibitively expensive. Ecclesiastical organisations wrangle

for hours with that somewhat less spiritual organisation, Customs and Excise, debating the boundaries. Does refitting an organ, for instance, constitute a new work or a repair?

The Government's refusal to clarify such areas of confusion is inconsistent. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, may have acknowledged that it is "odd" to have an anomaly which provides "effectively an incentive for people to alter and build anew rather than repair the best of the old". But his colleagues argue that changes would entangle an already confusing VAT system in even more complexities. Even if they did want to reduce the rate, ministers claim that their hands are tied by an EU directive which excludes repairs to historic buildings in the list of items accepted as eligible for a lower VAT.

These are weak excuses. Since the Government admits that the current system is anomalous, it should propose the case for change at the Council of Ministers. It may not encounter that much opposition. Within the EU there is already a broad recognition that it would be appropriate to accept historic buildings to be suitable for a lower VAT rate. Britain's churches — like those of Europe — provide some of the nation's richest cultural repositories as well as important centres for both rural and urban communities to meet. Religion can act as a binding force among increasingly fragmented societies. It is time for the Government to prove that it has faith in its convictions.

MUSEUM PEACE

Visitors will find repose in an elegant new courtyard

Last autumn 140 years of history ended not with a bang but a whisper as the British Museum's Round Reading Room closed. Academics, whose elbows had worn smooth the same desks that Thomas Hardy and Lenin once leant over, gathered up their pens and papers and half-moon spectacles and decamped to St Pancras. At the time these creatures of intellectual habit were unsettled. A tradition as English as Earl Grey tea and London fog was passing and they lamented it.

Now, six months later, most of them are contentedly ensconced in an impressive new building, availing themselves of improved research facilities. No doubt the myriad tiny habits which accrete through the years, condensing first into customs, ossifying slowly into history, are already reforming at hundreds of new reading desks. But those who still mourn their lost Bloomsbury building will find much to console them in the architectural plans for the British Museum described in *The Times* Arts pages today. As the Round Reading Room becomes a centrepiece for the largest covered courtyard in Europe, one of Britain's most demure architectural icons will recapture the vision which inspired its designer from the start.

Sir Robert Smirke first presented his plans for a new British Museum in 1823. In these he proposed four wings containing galleries set around a rectangular courtyard, but as work progressed it became clear that additional storage was required.

And since the museum's collection was given priority over the aesthetics of the building that was to house it, Smirke's plans for elegant perambulatory spaces were peremptorily changed. The Round Reading Room and adjoining bookshelves were constructed inside his proposed courtyard. Graceful Georgian proportions were chopped up with mezzanines, elegant window sashes were sliced and a portico was demolished and the space purloined for the addition of an extension.

Now, with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, alterations — intended to be completed in time for the 250th anniversary of the museum in 2003 — will echo Smirke's original aesthetic: in a spectacular feat of engineering, a soaring, ribbed dome will be thrown — so cunningly constructed that it will appear unsupported — over classical façades. Within this covered plaza, temperature-modulated, flooded with light, the public will be able to stroll. If anything this design will be an improvement on Smirke's original plans for his intentions were thwarted from the start by a deep shade of stone in which grass struggled vainly to grow, and persistent spouts congregated. But now, just as intellectual cogs are continuing quietly to turn in the new St Pancras location, of the great British Library, so another piece of history will be seamlessly recreated as the public once more finds space for contemplation amid one of the finest treasure collections in the world.

Nato planning is at 'half-cock'

From Sir John Weston

Sir, Now is not a time to carp, and our military and diplomatic colleagues need public support and encouragement in the current predicament.

But it is also, surely, the moment for the Alliance to put its money where its mouth is. We have told voters and taxpayers for years that the new Nato in the Nineties is about such things as "combined joint task forces", flexible and rapid deployment, and force projection, especially from sea to land. We have even practised such concepts extensively in far-flung spots to demonstrate their viability. We tell the UN that Nato has professional expertise to lend them in peacekeeping and crisis management.

It therefore will not do to say that all this is suddenly in the too-difficult box. Military planning is at half-cock if it does not provide for follow-through to make good in Kosovo on the ground.

This is Europe, not the other side of the world. If the Americans will not join us there, the Europeans may have to give a lead again: as we did for several years under the UN flag in Bosnia, before the Dayton agreement was struck and Nato came in to police a peace which events have now again placed in jeopardy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WESTON
(Permanent Representative to Nato, 1992-95; Permanent Representative at the United Nations, 1995-98),
13 Denbigh Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6EN,
April 2.

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, This is perhaps the time to appreciate the greatness of a former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson. He resisted successfully the enormous pressures to join the US in its war in Vietnam. The pressure emanated from President Lyndon Johnson to whom Harold Wilson was tied not only by the special relationship but also by deep sympathy for his social outlook and policy. Moreover, the group that the US tried to prevent talking over all of Vietnam was very nasty, as evidenced later by the "boat people", perhaps the most tragic refugee movement of the last half century (of whom many perished at sea).

Yet we all agree that Harold Wilson was right and gratitude is appropriate. We should remember this before we get involved yet more deeply in the Balkans.

Yours sincerely,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS,
April 1.

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, What an excellent article by Libby Purves on the Kosovo affair ("Unter bloody, folly", March 30). It was Clemenceau who said: "War is too serious a matter to entrust to military men." One hates to contradict him, but perhaps it is too important a business to be left to politicians.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGUIS
Lawthick, Mylor Churchtown,
Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 5UE
April 1.

From Mr Gerhard Spanier

Sir, Has there ever been a civil war during which atrocities were committed by one side only?

Yours faithfully,
G. SPANIER,
Bryn Myr, 549 Middle Road,
Ravenshill, Swansea SA5 5DH,
April 2.

From Mr John Preston

Sir, You report (March 30) that the BBC's *Nine O'clock News* has become the highest rated news programme since the start of the Nato bombing campaign. With such an obvious demand for information it beggars belief that they have chosen not to replace their scheduled programmes with more news, analysis and comment.

After a brief news flash at 8pm on Wednesday, March 24, to announce the start of the campaign, the viewer was forced to wait through *Changing Rooms* and *Holiday Reps Get Married* before receiving any further information. This came from a *Nine O'clock News* that was extended by a mere ten minutes.

The morning of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, saw all programmes on BBC1 replaced by blank news coverage. The situation in Kosovo may not have the glamour or popular appeal of that event. It does, however, constitute the start of hostilities that have the potential to grow into the biggest conflict in Europe since the Second World War.

For those of us who do not enjoy access to BBC News 24, the BBC's meagre coverage represents a complete failure to fulfil its remit as the provider of a public service.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PRESTON,
20 Llanon Street, Hull HU5 2HZ,
April 1.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dismay at school music changes

From Mr Peter Auker

Sir, I am Head of Music in what was until recently a grant-maintained (now "foundation status") mixed comprehensive school in Luton. The school is vastly oversubscribed, with an enviable reputation in sport and the arts, and for its academic excellence. It has recently been awarded Arts College status, to take effect from September.

Three years ago we decided to implement our own instrumental tuition service because the service provided by the local education authority (LEA) seemed to be poorly organised, poorly staffed, and poor value for money. The improvements have been remarkable: more children taking up instruments, improved staff loyalty, praise from Ofsted and a dramatic improvement in exam results.

I am dismayed that we have now been ordered by our LEA to return to their control, under new local management of schools regulations. Although

we have been told we may initially keep our team of teachers, this move clearly takes away from the school much of its control over employment.

It is ironic that these regulations were brought in to safeguard music in schools. I see them as a severe threat to the service we have established and find it hard to believe that schools with demonstrably successful systems of their own are not to be allowed to retain control over them.

With all curriculum areas having to suffer a cut in funding of 40-50 per cent this year, the service to our pupils will inevitably suffer, as will staff morale. My colleagues and I are going to find it extremely difficult to resource a satisfactory service on this kind of money.

Yours faithfully,
PETER AUKER,
16 Torquay Drive,
Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 9LN.
peter.auker@hotmail.com
April 1.

Care of young offenders

From Mr Martin Narey, Director General of HM Prison Service

Sir, The Director of the Prison Reform Trust suggests (letter, March 31) that looking after young delinquents "should be no business of the Prison Service".

It is not so simple, even at Feltham Young Offender Institution. The Chief Inspector himself acknowledged that there are pockets of good practice. Only last week I was present when the Princess Royal presented Butler Trust awards in recognition of the outstanding work of prison officers in two units.

Elsewhere in establishments for under-18-year-olds significant progress is under way. The development of high quality, constructive regimes at Humberstone, Thorn Cross and Werrington shows what can be achieved with carefully targeted investment. We are in the process of extending this approach to other establishments which will care for young people, in the new, distinct, under-18 establishments, using £51 million provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will enable us to spread good practice consistently and transform standards across the board.

The aim is to ensure that all under-18-year-olds in our care should benefit from a regime which is focused on providing a full and purposeful day, maintaining a safe and secure environment and, crucially, is aimed at preventing offending.

If we can achieve that — and I believe we can — ministers and the Youth Justice Board will have no need to look for alternative providers of accommodation.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NAREY,
Director General,
HM Prison Service,
Headquarters, Cleland House,
Page Street, SW1 4LN,
April 1.

From Mr Roland Hill

Sir, Michael Holroyd's hit against biographers should also include Sigmund Freud, who said what seems to me the last word on the subject. According to Paul Roazen's *Freud and his Followers* (1971) Freud responded negatively to Arnold Zweig, who had proposed writing his biography: "Anyone turning biographer commits himself to lies, to concealment, to hypocrisy, to flattery, and even to hiding his own lack of understanding, for biographical truth is not to be had, and even if it were it couldn't be used."

I am writing as a humble practitioner of the craft.

Yours sadly,
ROLAND HILL,
2 Arundell Court,
Raymond Road, SW19 4AF,
March 31.

Teachers' pay

From Mr Hywel James

Sir, I believe Miss Gertrud Seidmann is wrong about pupils being the best judges of the performance of teachers (letter, April 1).

When I started teaching more than 30 years ago, there was a self-regarding individual in the staffroom who was worshipped by his pupils. He was popular with his classes because he flattered the children in their play and in the gallery so to speak.

In fact his results were poor. The more discriminating boys eventually saw through his approach and opted for teachers who offered a regime which was more demanding but which laid the foundations for self-reliance, hard work and success in later life.

I became a member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools later and became convinced through classroom observation that popularity and rigour do not always go hand in hand in teaching.

Yours faithfully,
HYWEL JAMES,
Spencer House, Coleford,
Nr Crediton, Devon EX17 5DA,
April 1.

Visiting the BM

From Sir Simon Towneley

Sir, Jayne Dowle (article, April 1) refers to the "wonderland of horrors" in the British Museum. All visitors surely must be welcome to the most comprehensive museum in the world.

Circulation has always been a problem for the BM. The Great Court scheme will help to solve it and I hope Jane Dowle has made her contribution.

Meanwhile I feel sure the Trustees would be interested to learn where the "wonderland of horrors" is displayed in more prominent positions in the building.

Yours obedient servant,
SIMON TOWNLEY,
(Trustee, 1988-93),
Dyneley, Burnley,
Lancashire BB11 3RE,
April 1.

proach to other establishments which will care for young people, in the new, distinct, under-18 establishments, using £51 million provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will enable us to spread good practice consistently and transform standards across the board.

The aim is to ensure that all under-18-year-olds in our care should benefit from a regime which is focused on providing a full and purposeful day, maintaining a safe and secure environment and, crucially, is aimed at preventing offending.

If we can achieve that — and I believe we can — ministers and the Youth Justice Board will have no need to look for alternative providers of accommodation.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NAREY,
Director General,
HM Prison Service,
Headquarters, Cleland House,
Page Street, SW1 4LN,
April 1.

have attended the Yalta Conference and to have held a private meeting there with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Vyshinsky. Only Alger Hiss fixed this description and, contrary to John Lowenthal's view, hardly anyone now believes he was a victim of a miscarriage of justice.

Professor Ralston's assertion that the Un-American Activities Committee found only one Soviet collaborator is unsupported by the facts. The VENONA texts have also demonstrated overwhelmingly the guilt of Harry Dexter White (a fact now acknowledged by his former NKVD contact), Laurence Duggan, John Abt, etc.

Based on the VENONA material, which was unavailable to Joe McCarthy, and other evidence, it is far more difficult to name a single "innocent" victim of either the Hollywood blacklist or the so-called witch-hunt.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WEST,
96 Eaton Terrace, SW1W 8UG,
nigel@westintel.co.uk
March 27.

Food labelling

From Mr Michael Walton

Sir, Professor Ian Shaw makes, I believe, an excellent suggestion (letter, March 30) that American meat containing growth hormones be displayed labelled with that information so that potential purchasers can make up their own minds. Surely this practical approach could be extended to the other products that are so exercising the minds of producers and consumers alike for example, genetically modified foods, milk from bovine somatotrophin-enhanced herds and irradiated products. Rather than Nanny deciding for us, we can decide for ourselves. I suspect such market forces will determine the outcome, as Professor Shaw suggests.

I also wonder if this technique would provide a way around the draconian EU regulations that are sounding the death knell of small abattoirs, makers of speciality foods, etc. If the product is clearly labelled as not conforming to such-and-such an EU directive but satisfies the relevant British standard, is the consumer not entitled to make his choice?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WALTON,
Thriplow House,
Thriplow, Hertfordshire SG8 7RD,
March 31.

War crimes

From Mr Barry Baines

Sir, You report (April 2) that Britain's eight-year manhunt to track Nazi Second World War killers has cost more than £11 million. It has resulted in a frail old man being convicted of crimes committed in 1942. Whatever the gravity of the crimes, there comes a time when the door must be shut on the past. Would not the money have been better spent on the National Health Service caring for those who can still be helped?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY BAINES,
45 Preston Road,
Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PX.
barry.baines@btinternet.com
April 2.

Biography: an art of insights and lies

From Mr Laurence King

Sir, Michael Holroyd's observations on biography ("Parasites and peddlers", March 31) seem to me to be unduly masochistic, partly because he ignores one of the most valid and interesting types of biography, that of historical figures.

It appears that in his literary Utopia, these biographies and those of the recently dead would not be written at all. But how can we understand the history of a period without having some idea of the choices confronting the people who shaped it, seen from their own point of view? History would be incomparably poorer without the insights derived from these biographies.

I would defend, too, the biographies of contemporary sporting heroes and members of the Royal Family. The prurient interest in these figures is created partly because readers see the issues that they face in their own lives fought out on a "mythic" level in these popular biographies. However undesirable it is, new systems of morality are shaped by the accounts of the lives of famous personalities printed in newspapers and books.

Oddly, biographies of writers and artists seem to be the most questionable, as the point of their lives is very seldom the lives themselves and almost always the work they produce, which can be devalued by an overly biographical interpretation.

In the end, Michael Holroyd's incentive is, I feel, directed at the motivation of biographers. Given his audience (the article being an extract from a talk to the Biographers' Club) this must surely have been largely humorous.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KING,
Laurence King Publishing,
71 Great Russell Street, WC1B 3BN,
April 1.

From Mr Roland Hill

Sir, Michael Holroyd's hit against biographers should also include Sigmund Freud, who said what seems to me the last word on the subject. According to Paul Roazen's *Freud and his Followers* (1971) Freud responded negatively to Arnold Zweig, who had proposed writing his biography: "Anyone turning biographer commits himself to lies, to concealment, to hypocrisy, to flattery, and even to hiding his own lack of understanding, for biographical truth is not to be had, and even if it were it couldn't be used."

I am writing as a humble practitioner of the craft.

Yours sadly,
ROLAND HILL,
2 Arundell Court,
Raymond Road, SW19 4AF,
March 31.

Signs of the times

From Mr Stephen Walker

Sir, A sign on a table in a local furniture shop states: "This item is not currently available due to its desirability."

Whatever happened to "sold out"?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WALKER,
223 Harrington Road,
Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3PA,
April 2.

Wedding gifts

From Mrs Alison Musker

Sir, As a wedding present I gave Georgian silver grape-scissors to a schoolfriend (letters, March 18, 24, 30 and April 2).

She wrote back thanking me for the "beautiful candle snuffers".

Yours faithfully,
ALISON MUSKER,
8 Farley Court, Farley Hill,
Reading, Berkshire RG7 1TT,
April 2.

From Mr Henry Button

Sir, Mr John Cockram tells us (letter, March 24) that he has for years given a silver butter knife as a wedding present. He may have had in mind the old definition of a gentleman as someone who always used a butter knife even if he was dining by himself.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BUTTON,
17 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9BH,
March 25.

From Mr Peter Hudson

Sir, As the knife was given as a wedding present, it should have been obvious it was intended "for butter or worse".

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUDSON,
Widnush, Walcot Road, Ufford,
Nr Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3BP,
April 1.

From Mrs Elizabeth Bridger

Sir, The most original wedding gift we received was from a saintly retired clergyman. It was a little booklet, entitled *Words of Comfort*.

Yours truly,
ELIZABETH BRIDGER,
The Elms, 4 Common Lane,
Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8PL,
April 2.

OBITUARIES

LIONEL BART

Lionel Bart, composer and songwriter, died of cancer on April 3 aged 68. He was born on August 1, 1930.



Lionel Bart (left) in his heyday, around the time of the filming of *Oliver!*, with Peggy Mount as the Widow Corney, Mark Lester as Oliver Twist and Harry Secombe as Mr Bumble

When the film of *Oliver!* won five Oscars and the album won a gold disc, Lionel Bart was a regular subject in the gossip columns, living it up in Fulham, knocking around with the Beatles and the Stones, and dating Judy Garland and Alma Cogan (who proposed to him on television on Leap Year's Day). But though he bought houses in Tangiers, New York and Malibu, the East End boy was unable to sustain his success or to survive the temptations of an innocent, he descended into alcoholism and drug abuse, going bankrupt in 1972.

Yet in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Lionel Bart was the right man in the right place. Just as Osborne, Arden and Webster overhauled the English theatre, Bart brought the energy of rock to the musical stage, and set rolling the blockbuster bandwagon that Tim Rice, Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Cameron Mackintosh were all to board. In Bart's early shows, he broke away from the convention of threading a series of arbitrary situations onto a musical string, and instead wrote catchy music to serve the purposes of proper storytelling and drama.

He was born Lionel Begleiter, the son of a Jewish tailor. He did his National Service in the RAF and studied at St Martin's School of Art. His first work in the theatre was as a scene-painter. In the meantime he had dropped his unwieldy name (adopting that of his local hospital), and become involved in a skiffle band in Soho. He helped Britain's original pop idol, Tommy Steele, into the Top Ten with his first record, *Rock with the Cavemen* in 1956, and then worked on the stage show *The Tommy Steele Story*, which won an Ivor Novello Award. Bart was to write several other hits, including chart-toppers for Cliff Richard (*Living Doll*, 1959) and for Anthony Newley (*Do You Mind*, 1960).

In 1959 he wrote the songs for *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T.B.E.* Frank Norman's cheerful piece about small-time Soho crime and criminals, which was

produced by Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, and went on to be one of the company's great West End successes, running for more than two years at the Garrick Theatre. In it Bart contrived one song, the words of which enshrine the title of the show, which for all its faults refuses to be dislodged from the memory.

In the same year he wrote the music for *Lock Up Your Daughters*. Bernard Miles's adaptation of Fielding's *Rape Upon Rape*, with which the new Mermaid Theatre opened at Puddle Dock. But it was *Oliver!* in 1960 that proved Bart's greatest and most enduring success, though he later claimed that half of it was written during rehearsals. The show was full of hit songs which were quirky, good-natured and hummable, including *Food, Glorious Food*, *Oom-Pah-Pah*, *I'd Do Anything, You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two* and *Consider Yourself* (One of Us).

This was Dickens diluted, but Bart unadulterated: he was responsible not only for music and the lyrics of the songs, but for the whole text. Though its point of departure was *Oliver Twist* and the libretto necessarily includes all the famous Dickensian *dicia*, the story in Bart's hands became a sunnily optimistic comic melodrama, stripped of all the terrors and

evil of the original. Ron Moody's Fagin was more of a fatherly figure than a ruthless crook. In 1966 *Oliver!* became the longest-running musical in the history of the London stage. The film, which also featured Oliver Reed, Harry Secombe, Leonard Rossiter and Megs Jenkins, appeared in 1968, and the stage show was revived in 1967, 1971 and 1994.

As Bart saw it, the musical was a step towards popular-style folk opera. His next, *Blitz*, in 1962, was a spectacular work in which the story and its varied situations, like the rather grandiose music, attempted to recreate the stoicism, uncomplaining courage and unconquer-

able good humour with which, British audiences, like to be told, Londoners endured aerial bombardment.

Maggie May in 1964 saw Bart collaborating with the dramatist Alan Owen to tell the story of the archetypal Liverpool dockside prostitute in a new light. Told in Liverpool street song, her adventures were cruelly unsentimental, but Owen's story of her early love affair with a martyred political idealist was apparently meant to explain the heartlessness of her later behaviour. *Maggie May* demanded that Bart worked on an even larger scale than he had for *Blitz*, with extended dances, choruses and a large orchestra. It

also demanded extended musical sections in which music had to cope not only with Bart's skilful easygoing lyrics, but with naturalistic dialogue. These were challenges to which his unstrenuous gifts for catchy and neatly rhythmic tunes were hardly equal.

Blitz and *Maggie May* were not resounding successes, and the genesis of *Twang!* in 1965 was so stormy as to prevent it ever catching fire. The story was based on the legendary exploits of Robin Hood, but *Twang!* became a battleground, fought over throughout a provincial tour by its author-composer and its didactic and awkward director.

Joan Littlewood. The dialogue, scenes and order of events seemed to change night by night, and at the London opening their purposes remained crossed, intentions were never less than contradictory and success was impossible. Even the charms of Barbara Windsor as Maid Marian could not endear the show to the critics. Still worse was to follow in 1969 in New York, when Bart's *La Strada*, based on a Fellini film, closed after one night.

During the 1970s Bart's drinking became a problem — he was twice convicted of driving while intoxicated — and his health suffered. He later became testotal, but despite talk of endless new projects, he had lost confidence. He sold the rights to *Oliver!* for a few thousand pounds. With his memories in a trunk and ideas never quite coming to fruition, he lived quietly in Acton, where he was sometimes mistaken for Bob Hoskins.

Like several other composers in the world of popular music, Bart was a self-taught musician and virtually a one-finger pianist: his work was dictated to others, who orchestrated it in collaboration with him and who naturally influenced its harmonies. Critics who derided his palpable derivativeness were missing the point. Echoes of Victorian ballads, of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, of music-hall songs and of other musicals simply meant that Bart was working within a definite if debased popular tradition. What he wrote grew out of the musical world in which he grew up, and it provided him with the essential musical expression of the characters with whom he was concerned: small-time crooks from sleazy Soho joints, whose criminality is more comic than anti-social, a Fagin, Bumble and Nancy who were quaint rather than evil, a prostitute who became heartless only because her broken heart would not heal.

Within the derivative, sentimental, mid-Atlantic tradition which came naturally to him, Bart worked not only sincerely but with great conscientiousness. Though his reach exceeded his grasp, he knew exactly what he wanted and where he intended to go; what he lacked was the technical equipment and the necessary discipline. But *Oliver!* has a permanent place in the stage repertoire. He never married.

JESSE STONE

Jesse Stone, rhythm and blues pioneer, died in Altamonte Springs, Florida, on April 1 aged 97. He was born in Aitchison, Kansas on November 16, 1901.



Jesse Stone with his wife Evelyn McGee Stone in 1996

WHEN rock 'n' roll was in its infancy, Jesse Stone was already in his fifties, with a career that was virtually synonymous with the development of black American music during the first half of the century. He then used his experience of half a lifetime spent playing jazz, swing and rhythm and blues to become one of the seminal figures in the birth of rock 'n' roll.

Although in his own right Stone never became a household name, he played a pivotal role as an arranger, producer and writer at Atlantic Records in the 1950s, working on many of the records which were to shape popular music.

Among his own compositions were *Idaho* for Benny Goodman and *Money Honey* for the Drifters. He also arranged Big Joe Turner's *Shake, Rattle and Roll*, a song which became the second rock'n'roll hit for Bill Haley and the Comets, as the follow-up to *Rock Around the Clock* in 1954.

The grandson of Tennessee slaves, Stone was born in rural Kansas and began in showbusiness before the First World War, touring with his family's minstrel show. By the 1920s he was living in Kansas City, which then rivalled New Orleans as a jazz centre, thanks to its City Hall's tolerant attitude to late-night drinking and gambling joints.

As a pianist Stone led his own "territory band", which at different times included the jazz saxophonist Coleman Hawkins and the likes of Budd Johnson and Alton Moore. Yet Stone seemed to have a finger in every musical pie. He discovered the country blues singer J. D. Short in St Louis in the 1920s, and went on to become musical director of other Kansas City bands,

including those led by Terrence Holder, George E. Lee and Thamon Hayes.

He returned to leading his own band in the mid-Thirties and in 1936 Duke Ellington secured him a booking at New York's Cotton Club. He also worked at the city's equally famous Apollo Theatre, not only arranging, composing and directing from the bandstand, but writing sketches and jokes for some of the comic turns.

In 1942 his composition *Idaho* was covered by Benny Goodman, and it went on to be a jazz standard, recorded also by Jimmy Dorsey and Guy Lombardo, whose version sold three million copies. At the same time Stone also became musical director of the Interna-

tional Sweethearts of Rhythm, a group of Mississippi orphans who became a highly successful all-female jazz band that toured Europe playing to American servicemen.

When Ahmet Ertegun established Atlantic Records in 1947, he took on Stone as his right-hand man, and the label swiftly became the leader in authentic black rhythm and blues.

Often writing under the name of Charles Colthoun, Stone worked with many artists, including Ray Charles on *It Should Have Been Me*. Many years later, on the occasion of Stone's 95th birthday, Ertegun described his role: "You wrote the tunes and the arrangements; you assembled the players; you ran the

rehearsals; you conducted in the studio."

Stone also put together a remarkable in-house vocal harmony group called the Cues, who sang with everyone from Ruth Brown to Nat King Cole, and in 1953 he co-wrote *Soul on Fire* for LaVern Baker, the first record produced by Jerry Wexler. A few weeks later Wexler went back into the studio with Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters to record Stone's *Money Honey*.

The following year Stone helped Big Joe Turner, whose repertoire had previously consisted mostly of blues ballads, to record *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. The song was covered by Bill Haley and Elvis Presley, and popular music was never the same again.

Stone continued working with Wexler, on records such as the Clovers' *Your Cash Ain't Nothin' But Trash* and Chuck Willis's *C. C. Rider*. Later, as the music scene changed in the 1960s, he branched out into management.

In the period when Stone was at his most productive, popular music was regarded as ephemeral and its exponents to be mere shooting-stars. The backroom staff attracted little interest outside the music industry. But by the 1970s artists such as Ry Cooder had revived interest in the work of the early rhythm and blues pioneers, and Stone was recognised as one of the men who had shaped modern urban black music. Ertegun, again, was quick to pay generous tribute, saying that Stone had done "more to develop the basic rock 'n' roll sound than anybody else".

Stone retired in the early 1980s and moved to Orlando, Florida. Yet he continued to work sporadically, and accompanied his wife, the singer Evelyn McGee Stone, on her recent album *Jump Back*. She survives him, and has said that when he was admitted to hospital on March 27, he was writing a new song, entitled *That's It*.

ANDREW GARDNER

Andrew Gardner, newscaster, died of a heart attack on April 2 aged 66. He was born on September 25, 1932.



Andrew Gardner, standing, in the old ITN newsroom in Kingsway, with (right to left) David Nicholas, Alastair Burnet and George Fitch

ANDREW GARDNER was the presenter of *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet when it went on air from an attic studio in Kingsway for the first time on July 3, 1967. It was Britain's first half-hour news programme in prime time on a mass-audience channel, and that night's news included items about a train strike averted, fighting on the Suez Canal and Roger Taylor reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals. That original improvised studio was often so hot that Gardner and Burnet took their socks off beneath the desk as they addressed the nation.

Gardner's appointment was a shrewd one by the then Editor of ITN, Geoffrey Cox. A big man in every sense, Gardner stood 6ft 6in tall and possessed a classless yet unmistakably English voice, which was ideally suited to ITN's style of journalism: it had dignity and gravitas, yet was distinctly different from the standard BBC voice of the period.

For most of the 1970s, he and Reginald Bosanquet were the most readily recognised faces of ITN News, as Sir Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall were to be in the 1980s. Though the two men could not have been more different in personality, Gardner and Bosanquet had a close relationship, and Gardner readily admitted that they were "the Morecambe and Wise of current affairs" — with himself as the straight man. Their good-humoured relationship helped to keep events in perspective amid the regular panics of nightly news broadcasting, and after Bosanquet's death Gardner defended his old colleague against the colourful stories about him that surfaced from time to time in gossip columns, some of which were baseless.

Andrew Gardner was educated at Daumsey's School, West Lavington, Devizes, and did his National Service in the RAF. He joined ITN in 1961, having worked in Rhodesian broadcasting since 1957 and subsequently at the BBC. He was already an established newscaster when *News at Ten* started, having worked on ITN's *Roving Report* and *Dateline*.

In the ITN tradition, Gardner worked occasionally as a reporter in the field, covering, for instance, the Great Train Robbery in August 1963. Production teams admired him, because he was easy to work with and always cool at moments of crisis. In the studio he was the epitome of a sound anchor, yet when he took part in tests it was found that his heart rate

rose from the usual 73 to around 110 beats a minute.

For the best part of 20 years, he was a member of ITN's election night team, dealing with the constituency results as they poured in at the rate of seven a minute in the small hours. He had an impish sense of humour but was dogged when he argued his cause, and successive editors valued his judgment on issues of taste and decency.

He left ITN in 1977, moving to Thames as a presenter. He retired in 1992. He also was an accomplished and witty after-dinner speaker.

In recent weeks he had had many

meetings with old ITN colleagues as *News at Ten* came to an end, and he gave a number of interviews recalling the early days. He specifically asked to be in the control room for the last transmission on March 5, telling friends that as he had been there on the programme's first night, he wanted to be in on the last.

He had suffered for years from back trouble and shortly before his sudden death had undergone major surgery on his spine and knee.

He met his wife Margaret while working in Africa, and they were married in 1958. She survives him, along with their four sons.

DRUGS USED FOR SLIMMING

REFERENCE was made at the monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, held at its Bloomsbury Square headquarters yesterday, to the recent case in which a girl dancer was found to have died through an overdose of drugs taken for slimming purposes.

A letter had been received from the Home Office, stating that the Home Secretary was of the opinion that if, as he was informed, drugs of the nitrophenol group were highly poisonous, they should be placed under the utmost restriction possible pending the coming into force of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

The letter inquired whether the council of the Pharmaceutical Society was prepared to initiate the steps necessary to add to Part I of the Poisons Schedule such nitrophenols and preparations containing them as were likely to be retained to the public.

During the discussion Mr Beardsley had pointed out that the chemist from whom the tablets had been purchased had told the purchaser that she would be well advised to take them only under doctor's orders, and that the chemist, at the request, had made it clear that the chemist had taken all reasonable precautions.

ON THIS DAY

April 5, 1934

Sixty-five years ago, a dancer died after taking an overdose of a drug in order to reduce her weight: a few months later the Pharmaceutical Society, prompted by the Home Secretary, took action to prevent it from being on general sale.

On the proposal of the Vice-President (Mr S. Peck), seconded by Mr Hardy, a resolution to add these substances to Part I of the Schedule of Poisons was passed as follows: That by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the said council do hereby resolve and declare that the Schedule to the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, ought to be amended by the addition to Part I of the following words: Dinitrophenols, dinitro-cresols, preparations or admixtures containing dinitrophenols, preparations or admix-

tures containing dinitrophenols; and that a copy of this resolution be sealed with the corporate seal of the council.

It was stated that the resolution would be sent to the Privy Council for consideration and approval.

At an inquest at Paddington last month on a young woman cabaret artist, who died through an overdose of a drug which she had taken to reduce her weight, it was stated by a witness on behalf of the makers of the drug that in September, 1933, his company suggested that this preparation should be placed on the Poisons List so that it could not be bought except as a result of medical prescription. The company had no reply to the first letter, the witness said, and a second was sent and the reply received was that the matter was being considered.

On March 22 the Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons that the Poisons Board, set up under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of last year, was considering the restrictions to be applied to that and other poisons. He was also in consultation with the Lord President of the Council and the Pharmaceutical Society, the responsible authorities until the new Act comes into force, with a view to its being scheduled as a poison at the earliest possible date, and he was taking up the matter with the manufacturers with a view to the adoption of further precautions.

MAJOR BASIL WATTS

Major Basil Watts, MC, wartime light infantryman, died on February 26 aged 78. He was born on January 29, 1921.

WITH the Second World War in Europe in its terminal phase, Basil Watts won his Military Cross for overcoming German last-ditch resistance in the ruins of Bremen at the end of April 1945. It must be accounted truly astonishing that after having been assailed and ground down by a numerically and materially superior enemy ever since June 6, 1944, the Germans were, by that stage, still capable of mounting any worthwhile resistance.

Yet the fact was that when Watts and C Company 4th Battalion Somerset Light In-

fantry closed in on an important road junction in what was left of the western suburbs of Bremen on the evening of April 27, 1945, they found that their path was most stoutly and stubbornly barred by a dedicated band of mostly teenage defenders. These youthful zealots had already repulsed the attacks of one British infantry battalion, and it took stern measures from Watts and his men to overcome their resistance.

Advancing behind flamethrowers, C Company ruthlessly cleared strongpoint after strongpoint. On one occasion when fire was opened on them from behind the company, Watts himself dashed into the house from where it was issuing and shot dead the defenders.

His inspired leadership — which was always from the front — secured the road junction, and with the capture of more than 300 prisoners (who included many senior German officers), the organised resistance in Bremen was brought to an end.

When awarded his Military Cross, Basil Watts was pleased to receive a congratulatory letter from Lieutenant Joe Vandeleur of the Irish Guards (who was played by Michael Caine in the film *A Bridge Too Far*).

Watts and the 4th Somersets had fought their way into Germany all the way from the Normandy beachhead where they had been deposited the previous June. He had been involved in the futile attempt to relieve airborne troops at

Arnhem and then in the bitter fighting in the Ardennes.

At the end of the war he found himself in charge of the Volkswagen works at Wolfsburg. After retiring from the Army he kept up his soldiering as a Territorial with the 14th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, and carried out more than 100 jumps. One of the best of the TA rifle shots, he was a member of the regimental team which won the China Cup at Bisley in 1951.

He also featured in Charles Wheeler's BBC television documentary on the Battle for Normandy, made in 1994 to mark its 50th anniversary.

In civilian life Watts worked for Shell and then BP. He leaves his widow, Susan, and their two daughters.

BALKANS WAR

Britain offers refugees hope

Thousands of ethnic Albanians are to be given temporary shelter in Britain and other Western countries, following another 24 hours of mass exodus from Kosovo. Emergency measures will also include a sanctuary for 100,000 refugees in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Reports, pages 1-9

Prison camp claims

They thought they had found sanctuary after fleeing Kosovo, but 1,000 refugees were held at gunpoint in what they described as a hilltop prison camp. They pleaded with Macedonian soldiers to let them contact relatives willing to shelter them. Page 3

Aid arrives in Albania

American and French helicopters arrived in Albania, carrying emergency aid to refugees whose exodus from Kosovo threatens to overwhelm local authorities. The aircraft will establish an air bridge in a belated attempt to bring food and shelter to about 200,000 refugees. Page 4

Bonn shareout plan

Germany, which took on more than 300,000 refugees during the Bosnian and Croatian conflicts, is bracing itself for a new wave of asylum seekers from Kosovo. This time, though, it wants a strict shareout of refugees among EU countries. Page 5

Pope's plea to Serbs

The Pope, whose diplomatic initiatives to end the war in Kosovo have so far fallen on deaf ears, yesterday made an impassioned appeal for Belgrade to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened so help could be sent to the mass of people stranded on the borders. Page 6

NEWS

Sinn Fein denies accord 'sell-out'

Republican leaders sought to placate grass roots fears of a Sinn Fein sell-out by calling the latest demands for IRA decommissioning of weapons "dangerous and provocative". Sinn Fein leaders used Easter rallies across Ireland to restore confidence and faith among party members. Page 10

Police renew inquiry

Inquiries into the death of a black student have been re-launched after a secret police review heavily criticised the initial investigation. Senior officers are awaiting the results of a new post mortem on Daniel Blake, whose body was found on a railway line three years ago. Page 11

Libya handover nears

An Arab delegation headed to Libya yesterday for the expected handover of two Lockerbie bomb suspects to the United Nations. The group flew to the Tunisian island of Jerba from where they were to be driven over the border to Tripoli. Page 12

Police in cold pursuit of 25mph pensioner

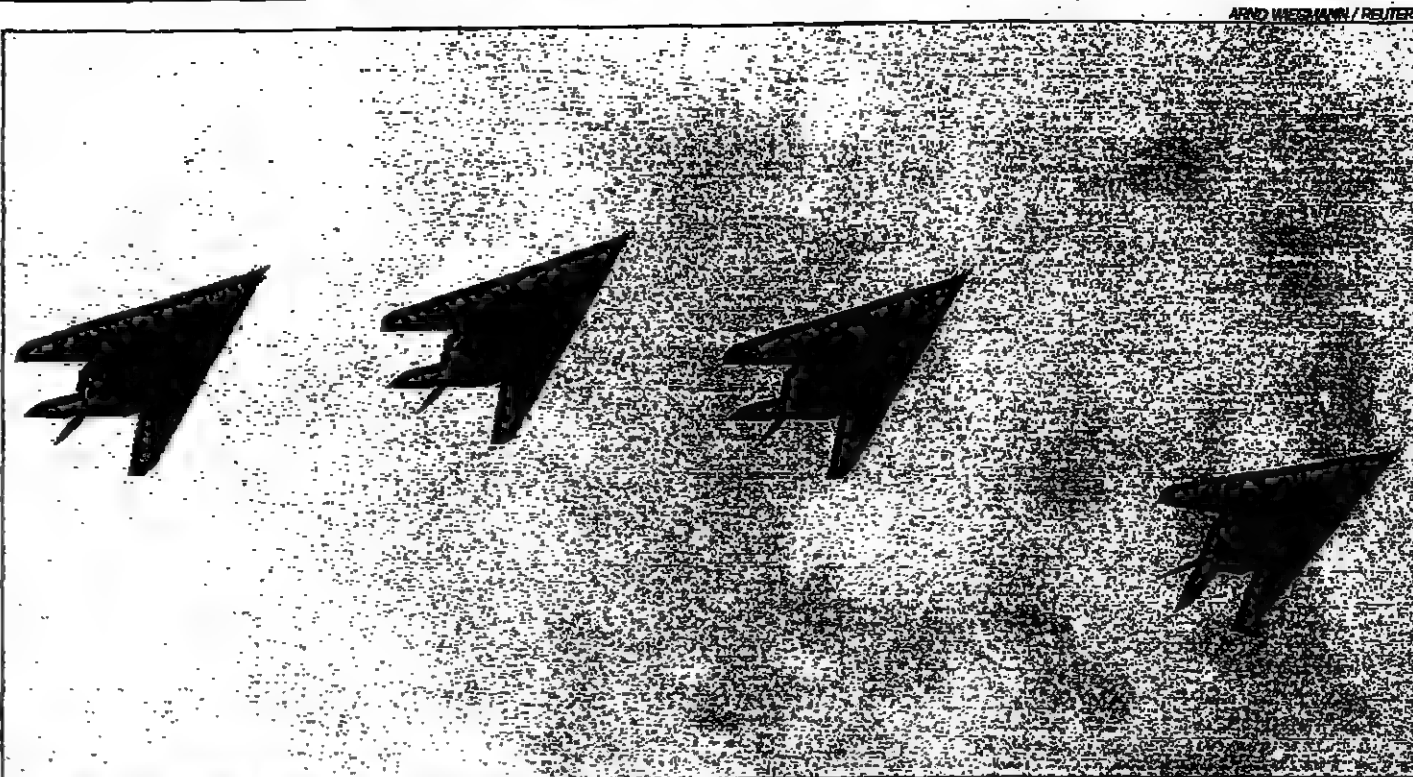
A police patrol set off in cold pursuit when it spotted an elderly woman driving erratically. In a low-speed chase lasting half an hour, the mileometer touched 25 miles an hour as Annaleise Wood, 70, weaved across the country road and clipped the occasional kerb. The police eventually used a "stinger" device more often used to burst the tyres of teenage speedsters. Page 11

Teacher salary tip

The leader of the National Union of Teachers predicted that the threat of industrial action in schools would force the Labour Government to abandon plans for performance-related pay and instead award £1 billion in salary rises of up to £3,000 for every teacher. Page 12

Towns vie to be cities

A battle is underway in the council chambers of England and Wales for the prize of being the last city to be created this millennium. The Queen intends to mark the event, and the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne, by grants of city status. Page 13



Another 13 F117 Stealth fighters arrived in Germany from the US yesterday, with 24 now taking part in airstrikes against Serbian forces

BUSINESS

Post plans: The Post Office intends to invest £1.5 billion in overseas acquisitions over the next few years to counter the threat of competition in its domestic market. Page 48

BP opposition: Alaska may set up its own oil and gas company to challenge the might of BP Amoco and Arco. Page 48

New braindrain: Computer experts are threatening to abandon Britain because of a tax change made in Gordon Brown's Budget that forces IT consultants to become staff employees, instead of charging fees through tax-efficient "personal service companies". Page 48

BA loans: British Airways is to become the first airline to offer travel loans of between £500 and £15,000 to its customers. Page 48

FEATURES

Mean streets: Parents usually fear for the safety of their teenage girls. But the streets are now more dangerous for boys. Page 15

Offering asylum: Britain welcomed Hungarian refugees back in 1956. Would it do the same for Kosovan Albanians now? Page 15

FASHION

Best buys: Keep a careful eye on the high street and you will find plenty of inexpensive, irresistible items that encapsulate this summer's trends. Pages 16, 17

LOTTERY

3, 7, 9, 15, 40, 43. Bonus: 11
One winner scooped Saturday night's £6.7 million National Lottery jackpot. Page 19

British premiere: Robert Lepage's new play about the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright is unveiled in Glasgow, but, says Benedict Nightingale, *Geometry of Miracles* proves a cluttered affair. Page 18

Curtain down: The touring production of *The Ladykillers* arrives at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. A faulty safety curtain sends the audience home early. Page 18

Raise the roof: When the British Museum wanted a covering for its newly revealed Great Court, it faced a £97 million problem. Now it has been solved. Page 19

Young audiences: Steps, the three-girl, two-boy pop ensemble, play the Shepherd's Bush Empire, to the delight of their under-18-year-old fans. Page 19

TOMORROW

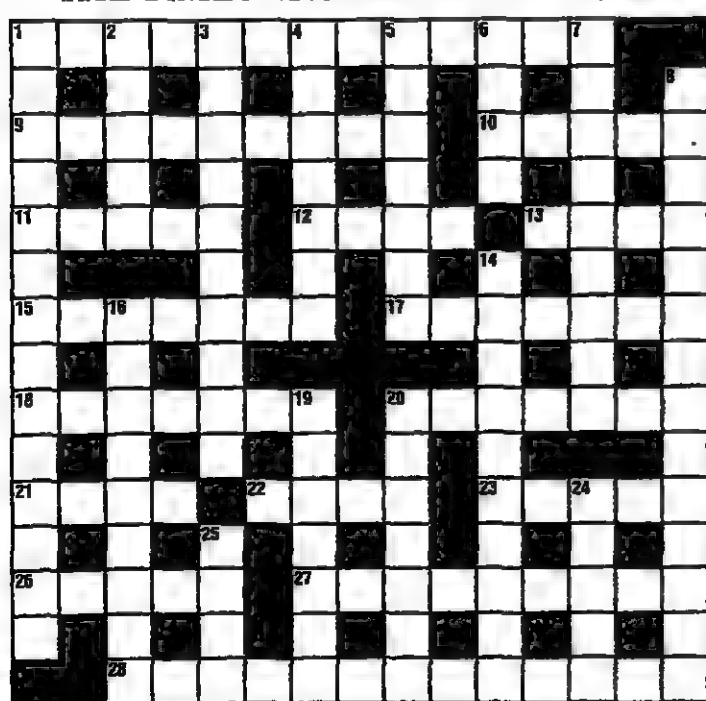
IN THE TIMES

ARTS
What does Keanu Reeves (left) think he's playing at in *Matrix*? Giles Whittell finds out

LAW
Why should the Bar, which values its independence, look to the Government for the awarding of silk?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,069



- ACROSS
- Saw the difference and celebrated (13).
 - Conformity of soldiers involved in a salute (9).
 - Conspiracy to incriminate firm on trial (12-2).
 - Precious person's bearing (5).
 - Large book or collection of books rejected by this compiler (4).
 - Just a tree outside (4).
 - Rumour reported in this situation, for example (7).
 - Former nurse holds hand, being infatuated (7).
 - Sort of thistle from a Baltic state (7).
 - So-called Asian river taken by top-dolich Japanese warriors (7).
 - Go off variety act (4).
 - Silver is offered, initially, in money-changing business (4).
- DOWN
- Count, perhaps, old money (5).
 - French female name, variant of Greek female name (5).
 - A new, good, and sprightly swimmer (9).
 - Wife at church dance constraining son to act warily (5,4,4).
 - Not the sort of missive Lorna would have sent (4,4,6).
 - One's employer is a sucker for drink (5).
 - Italicised characters represented as visionary (10).
 - Very much a lieutenant, though raised in drab surroundings (7).
 - His out, making contact with Greek character's neck (7).
 - Someone use it with a ladder, others prefer it without (4).
 - Disparaging type rode across expanse of land (9).
 - In which one is bound to learn the tricks of the trade (14).
 - Pulls down gloomy quarters housing preservationists (10).
 - Great wolf roaming about in residual light (9).
 - Garbage providing slops for animals (7).
 - About time Japanese commander revealed possible source of report (7,1).
 - Put it up one lodger, at first, in outer room (5).
 - Bogus problem (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,068 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6:28 am
Sun sets: 7:39 pm
Moon rises: 8:52 am
Moon sets: 12:18 am
Last quarter April 9
London: 7:39 pm to 6:25 am
Bristol: 7:39 pm to 6:25 am
Edinburgh: 7:53 pm to 6:32 am
Manchester: 7:53 pm to 6:32 am
Perthshire: 8:00 pm to 6:49 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up of 40% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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THE TIMES

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Free books for schools

GENERAL WEATHER

General: southeast Scotland, northeast England, the Midlands, East Angles and southeast England will be mostly dry and quite warm with enough breaks in the cloud to allow some sunny spells. Wales, western England, western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and isolated showers in the morning, but it will become more overcast in the second half of the day with drizzly rain reaching Northern Ireland early in the afternoon and remaining areas before evening. Meanwhile, northeast Scotland will start wet but it will soon become drier and brighter.

Tonight, most of the United Kingdom will be very mild but cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Amounts of rain in the south and east will be quite small, but some heavier bursts of rain are expected in northern and western areas where it will also be rather blustery.

London, SE England, E Angles, Central S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Islands, Central N England, NE England: mainly dry and fairly bright with patchy cloud and a few sunny intervals. Quite warm by early afternoon. Wind light. SW, Max 17C (63F).

SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District: a few sunny spells in the morning, but becoming increasingly overcast during the afternoon with a growing risk of drizzle, especially on the west coast. Wind moderate, SW, Max 15C (59F).

Isle of Man, N Ireland: a little sunshine at first, but drizzly rain will spread slowly from the south-west in the afternoon. Wind moderate, SW, Max 14C (57F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: any overnight rain will soon clear to leave a mostly dry and bright day, but drizzly rain will spread from the southwest in the evening. Wind moderate, S to SW, Max 18C (65F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: sunny intervals and the odd shower in the morning, increasingly overcast during the afternoon with light rain arriving before evening. Wind moderate, S to SW, Max 14C (57F).

Orkney, Shetland: some rain at first, but it will turn drier and brighter by late morning or early afternoon. Wind brisk, SE, settling to SW, Max 11C (52F).

Republic of Ireland: mainly cloudy, outbreaks of rain spreading from west, most persistent in north and west. Wind fresh, S or SW, Max 14C (57F).

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: unsettled and breezy with periods of showery rain crossing the country at intervals, but with some sunshine. Temperatures will remain above average.

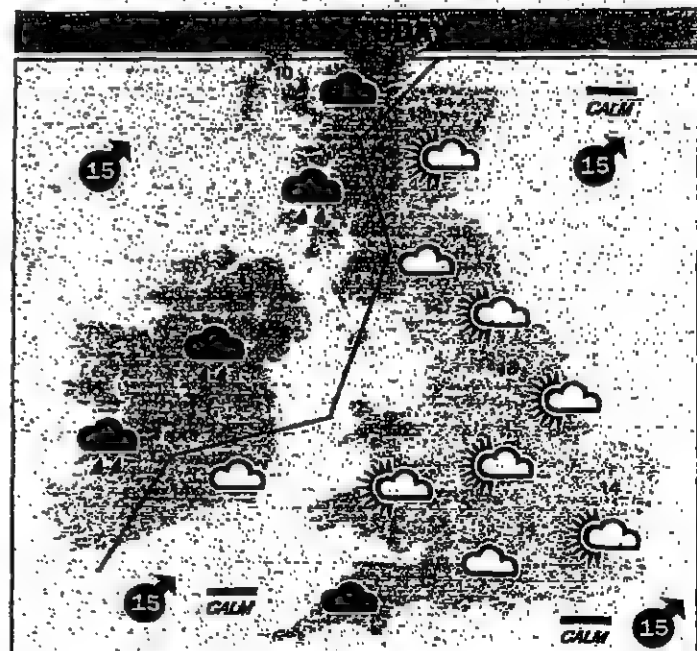
ABOUT THE WEATHER

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; du = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; i = ice; m = mist; n = rain; o = overcast; s = snow; t = thunder; w = wind; x = other.

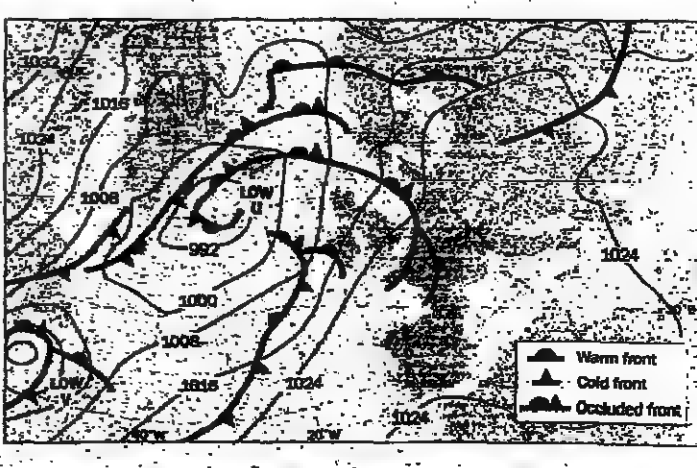
RECORD

Alaska 15 61 f, Cologne 21 70 f, Madrid 15 61 f, Rome 18 64 f, Stockholm 12 54 f, Tokyo 21 70 f, Vancouver 12 54 f, Wellington 12 54 f, Zurich 17 63 f

Temperatures at 10 am, local time. F = Fahrenheit, C = Celsius.



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low V drifts north, filling slowly. Low V remains slow moving with little change in central pressure. The high pressure over Europe will ease southwards.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Belfast	9.32	12.4	12.46	12.1	London Bridge	4.14	8.9	16.30	6.9
Birmingham	1.47	5.2	13.59	3.3	Lowestoft	2.15	4.6	12.02	2.3
Cardiff	8.15	11.5	12.02	11.2	Manchester	8.36	6.4	20.51	6.3
Doncaster	8.05	5.3	20.22	5.3	Millers Haven	7.29	6.6	18.44	6.3
Edinburgh	1.43	3.8	14.13	3.8	Orkney	2.51	3.6	12.29	2.6
Falmouth	7.36	5.8	12.53	4.9	Perthshire	6.57	5.1	19.34	5.0
Glasgow	2.57	3.1	14.57	3.2	Portsmouth	9.14	1.6	21.23	1.6
Greenwich	2.58	3.7	14.21	3.7	Sheffield	1.38	4.1	12.50	4.2
Hull	0.32	0.5	12.46	0.1	Shrewsbury	1.22	5.9	12.29	5.8
Leamington	8.42	8.3	20.58	8.1	Southampton	1.02	4.3	13.20	4.2
Lincoln	8.28	8.5	20.53	8.4	Stirling	8.37	11.5	20.54	11.3
London	8.45	6.5	20.52	6.3	Swansea	6.09	9.6	18.52	9.6
London-Heath	5.06	5.1	17.20	5.0	Walsingham	2.01	4.1	14.26	4.0

All times GMT. Highs in rain.

Yesterday: highest day temp: Cleethorpe (Lincolnshire) 19C (66F); lowest day temp: Fair Isle (Shetland) 7C (45F); highest wind: Capel Celyn (Gwynedd) 0.27m/s; highest sunshine: Cleethorpe, Llandudno (Shetland) and Scarborough (North Yorkshire) 17 hrs

Shades of excellence

John Hopkins
on David
Duval
Page 34

Sniffing trouble

Another
howler by
Fowler
Pages 28, 34

Wasps buzzing

Gloucester go
down in
semi-final
Page 33

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

Briton levels to ensure final twist

Henman's tie worn with distinction

By ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

"AT THIS level, it is not about taking part, it is all about winning and losing." It was a very un-British thing for Great Britain's favourite son to say, especially on such a patriotic occasion, but for once Tim Henman had every right to be as bullish as he liked as he kept his country's Davis Cup hopes alive in their world group tie with the United States yesterday. He had just beaten Todd Martin 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 in front of an ecstatic crowd in Birmingham to level the tie at two rubbers all and leave Greg Rusedski to fly the flag in the decider.

Henman has earned his corn this weekend: by the time that he left the court, he had played nearly 11 hours of tennis in three days and shown that he is a fast learner in this game. On Friday night, he could barely hide his misery after he had lost to Jim Courier. At the time, he said he was just not ready for what he had faced. The pressure, the intensity of the moment and the expectation of 9,400 cheering supporters had got to him and he was struggling from the start. Just 48 hours later, he was prepared for the battle and ready to win.

"Once you realise you are in a new experience, then you accept it and get on with it," he said, looking a much happier man. "I got used to it and I was able to approach today's singles a bit differently. I was prepared for the atmosphere, I was prepared for the intensity, and I won."

The match yesterday was just what Martin did not want. After two months of struggling with a pulled abdominal muscle, the thought of three matches back-to-back was not his idea of fun. By yesterday afternoon, he looked weary from the start. Then again, so did Henman, but both showed that when it comes to playing with no fuel

THE DAVIS CUP

GREAT BRITAIN 2 - 2 UNITED STATES

Friday: T Henman lost to J Courier 6-7, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 5-7
G Rusedski lost to T Martin 4-6, 4-6, 2-6

Saturday: Henman and Rusedski bt Courier and A O'Brien 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3

Yesterday: Henman bt Martin 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6
(Not including Rusedski v Courier, finished late yesterday)

concentration if that call had been made properly. I would not have expected Tim to give me that call in this situation — maybe in any other tournament, but not in Davis Cup."

And, being Davis Cup, it brought from Henman a level of play that he has not been able to reach all year. From a 29 per cent first-service figure, he was now banging in his first service with confidence and venom. He swept Martin aside to take the next five games, winning the second set and taking an early and vital lead in the third. For that spell, he could do no wrong — the ace count reached double figures and when forced to stay on the baseline, he was winning points from here as well.

The massed ranks of the British support crew — everyone that David Lloyd, the captain, could lay his hands on had been brought in to swell the numbers — were armed with rattles and flags, but spent much of the afternoon alternately chewing their nails and jumping from their seats with sheer joy and relief as first Henman was broken for the United States to go 3-2, before breaking back two games

later, sending a backhand return down the line to take the Martin service to love and head for the tie-break.

By this stage, the crowd, who cheered and screamed for more than three hours, could hardly contain themselves. Henman sped to a 4-0 lead, "but even then I knew I had to play some tough points yet", he said. His eighteenth ace brought him match point and when his next service was called out, the shout was lost in the cheers as the crowd leapt to their feet thinking that Henman had won. Calm and controlled, Henman resumed his position on the baseline and, as Martin's final backhand headed for the net, he saluted the crowd that had taken him through 11 hours of frustration and delight and ran to greet his team-mates.

"It was a great match, that's the best way to describe it," Henman said. Even Martin could not disagree. "Tim is not No 7 in the world by accident," he said. "He's a heck of a player and today he proved he's a great competitor as well." More than 9,000 of the faithful in Birmingham had known that all along.

Rob Hughes.....27
Double delight.....27
Lynne Truss.....35

left in the tank, both can run for hours on fumes alone. If Henman took his time to pick up speed, Martin showed that he has reserves beyond belief. Just when he looked down and out, he came back to make Henman work even harder to achieve his dream.

The beauty — and the frustration — of Davis Cup-ties is that they are played over the best of five sets. Winning one set can settle the nerves, but there is still a long way to go from there. Surprisingly, then, the whole match turned on one duff forehand. Having taken the first set as a gift from Henman — the Britain No 1 dropped his service by hitting just one first service in play and throwing in a couple of miserable forehand errors — Martin was in charge. He broke for a 4-3 lead in the second set and was serving at 30-15 when he planted a backhand volley. He thought it was in, even Henman thought it was in, but the line judge thought otherwise. Suddenly, the gentlemanly Martin was livid — or as livid as he is likely to get. Swatting away the ball in fury, he took his mind off the job and Henman was back in the match, breaking Martin's service to level the scores.

"I would hate to think that I am making excuses for myself," Martin said, "because it was my fault I lost my concentration. But I would have been a hell of a lot easier to keep my



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Iron fist: Henman shows the steel during his defeat of Martin that took the tie down to the wire in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Rob Hughes watches the revival of Britain's Davis Cup hopes in Birmingham

Henman provides positive thinking

AT LAST, when the pressure is at its greatest and the tension feeds into the mind, an English sportsman grows. The performance of Tim Henman in Birmingham yesterday, in a febrile, partisan atmosphere that would have frozen the minds of many of our tennis players, survived his third marathon encounter in three days and outlasted Todd Martin, of the United States, who initially looked to have the greater range and greater equipment for the contest. Henman won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 and it was marvellous, uplifting sport.

Around a television set 150 miles away in a Surrey nursing home, Bunny Austin, a survivor indeed, in that he was a member of a last British team to beat the United States in Davis Cup in 1939, marvelled at the levels of stamina and the combat of the modern game. "I'm watching every ball," Austin, 92, said. "It's absolutely beautiful the way they [Hen-

man and Greg Rusedski]

played the doubles, and then the way Tim came back yesterday."

Beautiful to behold, indeed. Those of us in the arena witnessed another 3hr 13min of man running eventually on near adrenalin, on the edge of nerve and sinew, and man refusing to yield when there was cause enough for him to do so.

More than that, when fatigue slowed both Henman and Martin, their game actually appeared to flower with more strokes, more thought, more pureness of quality and design. Is this what is needed to turn the modern game from its bludgeoning force and pace into "thinking" tennis?

There was enormous drama, too, and Henman was first to admit that the match turned on a "questionable" line-call against Martin. It came at the apex of the contest, when a backhand volley that would have helped Martin to go 4-3 up in the crucial third set was ruled out when, clearly, it was on the line. Henman took full advantage, closed out the set 6-3 and, in the dogged tennis that followed, he seldom looked like a loser.

"There are times when you might overrule the call yourself," Henman observed. "This, at a crucial situation in the Davis Cup, was not one of them. There are two of you playing — yourself and your country — and you take what comes. If we played great tennis and lost, it would be a waste of weekend."

There is the clarion sound of



Henman, a study in concentration, stretches to hit a backhand against Martin in their monumental Davis Cup encounter yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

the modern man, the modern sport in the era when most sports are business and the percentages count. Yet Martin, upon hearing Henman's admission, said that he would not, in the Davis Cup, expect his opponent to try to overrule. They were agreed on that and also agreed that Martin, uncharacteristically for this quiet American, allowed the situation, the atmosphere as well as the momentary injustice, to sway his concentration. How often in the past has it been the British who succumb to such distractions, when the tough-minded Americans go through?

Absolutely significant to this turning point was the calculated riposte of the British to Friday's display of team force by the Americans. Henman and

David Lloyd, the captain, appreciated that the British bench, in comparison to the Americans, lacked both numbers and animation. They righted this and, in the strange hybrid of the Birmingham crowd, the effect of a line of tracksuited "cheerleaders" for the Brits had its effect. Only a section of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) blazered officials were disapproving as sections of the crowd, dressed for football, took every opportunity of audience participation that was going.

The organisers had played their part, handing out 500 free tickets to children who came with their faces painted in the colours of the Union Jack and who gave swimming gala-like shrieks throughout the afternoon and evening.

Martin should not have been distracted, for, at 28, he is a veteran of Davis Cups and, by Henman's own admission, in the first hour of the match it was the American, using guile and stealth, who called the tune. "I found it difficult to work him out and this was my toughest weekend in tennis," Henman said, "but this time I was prepared for the intensity. I feel I played a great match."

Monumental in its quality of physical and mental courage, it suggested that we may not be foolish to hope that Henman might grow into a modern Fred Perry. By using mind when the body was forced to slow, he overhauled a fine opponent in Martin. Bunny Austin would have recognised it as an English trait of old.

Doubles turns the tide

BY ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NEVER has a game of doubles meant so much to so many people. Normally, the doubles is a gentle afterthought to the main event, but on Saturday afternoon Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski played for 3½ hours as if their lives depended upon it. They had to if Great Britain was to have any chance of salvaging this tie against the United States.

It was a remarkable performance of sheer determination from Henman, as he dragged Rusedski into the match from a set down to beat Todd Martin and Alex O'Brien 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3. Never has he looked so pumped-up for an encounter; every winning point was met with clenched fists and a glare as he gave his partner a few terse instructions and got back to work.

Rusedski had been the weak link in the chain for the first set and a half until, following his

leader, he started to nail his returns and crank up the power on the service. With Henman steering operations, the two singles players became a team that, given their vastly differing natures and their history of off-court disagreements, was no small achievement.

From looking desperate and disappointed on Friday night, after his loss to Jim Courier, Henman was a changed man and Britain seemed to have a fighting chance. "The doubles is what it hinges on," Henman said. "Suddenly from 2-0 it's 2-1 and all the pressure is on their shoulders."

David Lloyd, the Great Britain captain, was beside himself as he stood and watched. "If we win the doubles, we can win the whole thing," he had predicted, although not even he would predict what might happen if Britain booked a place in the quarter-finals.

SNOOKER

McManus hopes to avoid another whiteout

BY PHIL YATES

BEARING in mind the unexpected fate of Stephen Hendry in the first round at the Crucible Theatre last year, Alan McManus is entitled to view his forthcoming match against Jimmy White at the Embassy world championship with a degree of trepidation.

The draw for the last 32 of the game's leading event, conducted on *Grandstand* on BBC television on Saturday, produced a number of intriguing encounters, none more so than White, who beat Hendry 10-4 at the corresponding stage 12 months ago, pitted against McManus.

"It's obvious I could have had an easier draw, but there's no way you'll hear me complaining," McManus, who yesterday defeated Alfie Burden 5-3 to reach the second round of the British Open in Plymouth, said. "Playing Jimmy at Sheffield couldn't be much higher profile and it's something you have to relish. It's just a buzz being there, no matter who you play."

Hendry, second-favourite with the bookmakers to lift the trophy for the seventh time since 1990, also has a tough introduction. He plays Paul Hunter, winner of the Welsh Open last year, while John Higgins launches his title defence against Gerard Greene. In a contest guaranteed to create enormous interest in

DRAW

K Doherty (ire) v S James
M King v D Morgan (Wales)
J Wattana (Thail) v M Fu (PRC)
J Higgins (Scot) v G Greaney (N Ire)
M Williams (Wales) v J McCulloch
P Ebdon v M Stoeck (Wales)
A Drago (Rus) v F O'Brien (Ire)
A Hamilton v C Small (Scot)
A McManus (Scot) v J White
A Beattie (Scot) v N Walker
S Hendry (Scot) v P Hunter
R O'Sullivan v L Fernandez (Arg)
J Parnell v T Murphy (N Ire)
G Davis v J Pardy
N Bond v D Dale (Wales)
S Lee v J Lardner (Scot)
(England unless stated)

the Far East, Marco Fu, of Hong Kong, will meet James Wattana, of Thailand. Wattana, a world championship semi-finalist in 1997, did little to bolster his fragile confidence when he was surprisingly eliminated from the British Open yesterday.

Wattana, the world No 15, recovered from 4-2 down to 4-4 against Michael Holt, the world No 193 from Nottingham. He also had the initial scoring opportunity in the deciding frame, but overcut a tricky black off its spot and Holt stepped in with a break of 75 to win 5-4.

"Although James has been struggling lately, he's got a lot of experience at the Crucible and he always seems to do well there," Fu said. While experience is indeed invaluable, form is also relevant and, in that regard, Fu has the edge.

Stephen Lee, the No 9 seed, was forced to withdraw from the British Open after injuring a muscle between his neck and shoulder in a bizarre accident at his home in Trowbridge last week. Lee, beaten 9-8 by Hendry in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters three days earlier, joined out of bed to answer his telephone when the injury occurred. As a result, Drew Henry received a walkover.

Mark Williams, the 1997 British Open champion, who has already won three world-ranking tournaments this season, began his challenge for a fourth by highlighting a solid 5-2 victory over Joe Perry with a break of 111.



Hickman celebrates his silver in the 200 metres medley

Foster laps up short course to glory

THE medals came thick and fast for Great Britain on the last night of the world short-course championships here. Mark Foster's victory in the 50 metres butterfly bolstering James Hickman's retention of the 200 metres butterfly title on Saturday and helping to buoy the national tally to four gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

Britain's successes left them third among the medals behind Australia and Japan, with silver medals for Graeme Smith in the 1,500 metres freestyle, Helen Don-Duncan in the 200 metres backstroke and James Hickman in the 200 metres medley, while Hickman also helped the 4 x 100 metres medley quartet to the bronze medal behind a world record-breaking Australia squad. The women's medley relay event also produced the first world record-

holding Japanese quartet in swimming history.

For Britain, the past four days produced by far the finest result in the short history of world short-course event, staged four times since 1993, and exceeded the achievements of the squad's counterparts from track and field at the recent world indoor athletics championships.

That particular statistic will enable Foster — whose victory yesterday in a championship record of 23.61sec was, like Hickman's the day before, just about as emphatic as they come — to engage in a little friendly gloating when he meets up with Colin Jackson, the world champion at 60 metres hurdles, back at base at the University of Bath.

The banter will doubtless involve a certain amount of self-congratulations for both men as Foster reports back

From Craig Lord in Hong Kong

that, having taken a leaf from the book of athletics, victory is now literally his from the start.

Ronny Berndt, a researcher for the Olympic testing centre in Hamburg, where Foster's training programmes are prepared by Dirk Lange, a German coach, timed Foster at an "exceptional" 2.18sec for the first 7.5 metres of his race, making him the fastest swimmer off the starting blocks in the world. The time translates to a gain over his rivals of about 30 centimetres at the point Foster emerged into his stroke; his winning margin of 0.26sec over Zhang Qiang, of China, almost totally estab-

lished from the dive and never conceded.

Hickman, too, stole a march on rivals from the start of the 200 metres butterfly on Saturday, but it was not until the halfway mark that his supremacy in a field brimming with Olympic champions, world champions and former world record-holders shone through. Victory was his after 150 metres, but Hickman did not relent, claiming the title 2sec clear in 1min 52.71.

Last night, his specialist butterfly events out of the way, Hickman said that he was just having fun in the 200 metres medley. It nearly resulted in another title as he raced inside world record pace over the butterfly and backstroke legs of the race before Matthew Dunn, of Australia, looking to retain the title, passed him on the breaststroke. Dunn held on over the free-

style leg to win in 1min 55.81sec, a championship record, with Hickman just a stroke and a half, or 0.71sec, behind.

Graeme Smith, his former training partner at Stockport, achieved his aim of re-establishing himself on the world scene after a low point in his career. The 1996 Olympic silver medal-winner added another second place to his collection, swimming behind Grant Hackett, of Australia, the world record-holder.

Don-Duncan, 17, and a former European junior champion, set things rolling for Britain last night with a silver in the 200 metres backstroke behind Mai Nakamura, of Japan, who swam inside world record pace until there were 50 metres to go, finishing 0.40sec off target.

Results, page 41

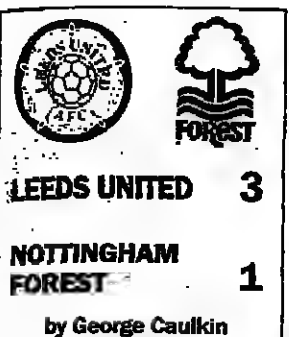
17 year old high jumper given clearance for take off.



The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in London and Orlando is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
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O'Leary's charges revive era of Revie



by George Caulkin

IT IS a touch ironic that David O'Leary should profess such a cursory interest in the powers of psychology, for here is a football manager mired in the depths of denial. The men in white coats would doubtless have a field day with such a fascinating patient; the men in white shirts already do.

Can Leeds United qualify for a place in the European Cup? "Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal are entitled to be in the top three." Is O'Leary not making a subtle attempt to deflect the pressure onto his nearest rivals. "I'm not an intelligent man like Arsène Wenger. I'm not into all the rubbish." Well, no, of course not. Perish the thought.

O'Leary, the analysts might say, inhabits a world of blissful fantasy. His youthful side have won their past seven FA Carling Premiership matches — equalling a post-war record set by Don Revie's definitive United team 26 years ago — and, with each, his claims that fundamental restructuring is required ring more hollow.

He means it, of course, yet his players keep fidgeting and flicking their way beyond the opposition, breathing down the neck of Chelsea, in third place, — now just two points distant, although with a game in hand — and generally making his life a misery. At this rate, how will he convince his directors to loosen the purse-strings this summer?

The answer may not be too long in coming, given that Leeds's seven-game run-in includes matches against the trio immediately above them. Even if the championship is not a realistic option, Leeds are duty-bound to play a vital role in the final outcome.

In the meantime, they continue to play hard, finding the necessary gear to cruise past Nottingham Forest on Saturday but expending little obvious effort. Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, maintained his innocence in the shadow of the gallows — "for long periods, we were the better team" — but Leeds roused themselves when they had to.

An otherwise ordinary first-half was illuminated by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's seventeenth goal of the season, setting beyond Johnson and Christie before striking home powerfully from the fringes of the penalty area, and although Forest equalised in the 53rd minute — Alan Rogers directing a volley beyond Martyn — they remained brittle.

United regained the lead quickly, a foul by Gough enabling Ian Harte to score with a firm free kick, while, in the 83rd minute, the excellent Alan Smith hooked a corner by Harte, headed back to him by Woodgate, into the net. There was time aplenty for Carlton Palmer to receive his annual red card at Elland Road for two raking tackles on Bowyer.

"A lovely sniffer's goal," O'Leary called Smith's eighth in 11 first-team starts, which, considering the events on Merseyside, was perhaps not the most sympathetic term. If, as a topic of conversation, the subject did not infuriate him so, it would have been tempting to describe it as a Freudian slip. Psychologically speaking.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): N. Mannin — J. Woodgate, D. Whelan, L. Radzinski, I. Harte — L. Bowyer, C. Hoggan, B. Ribeiro — J. H. Kewell (sub: M. Jones, 90min), A. Smith, J. F. Hasselbaink.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): M. Crossley — C. Edwards, R. Gough, S. Christie — I. Bonlatre, A. Johnson, C. Palmer, A. Rogers, S. Sinagra (sub: H. Porter, 81), M. Harwood, D. Hendrie (sub: N. Shipperley, 66). Referee: P. Allcock.

FA Carling Premiership: United captain underlines his value



Beckham, partly obscured by Cole, forces home Manchester United's equaliser with Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, for once powerless to intervene. Photograph: Tom Hevezi

Keane's determination dispels early lethargy

Harrison, Denis Irwin played a pass across the back four that went to Marcus Gayle, who should have taken advantage, and Schmeichel had to be at his sharpest to stop Euell after Harrison had wrestled Ronny Johnsen aside.

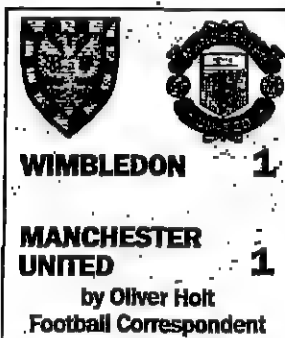
Then, United snapped out of it. For the rest of the game, they worked like devils. At times, the siege of the Wimbledon goal was almost comical, a pinball game of madly rebounding shots and blocks and a sprinkling of wonderful saves from Neil Sullivan.

United's only reward was the equaliser that they scored on the stroke of half-time. Irwin, who had suffered his share of embarrassment at the hands of Gayle, nutmegged Michael Hughes and drove in a cross that Dean Blackwell

could only spoon into the air off his thigh. When the ball dropped, David Beckham was first to it, volleying into the corner of the net.

When the final whistle blew, the United players started at the floor, kicked sods out of the pitch and generally looked glum. They have not lost for 20 games now, but although Arsenal did not get any nearer to them, Chelsea have re-emerged as significant challengers.

Predictably, perhaps, the only United player who rose



by Oliver Holt

Football Correspondent

above the average was Roy Keane. Their captain was superb, a model of unstinting industry and aggression, urging his teammates on so tirelessly, so furiously, that it could have been the Euro-

pean Cup final itself that he was playing in. It was in his duel with Robbie Earle and Jason Euell, who were both outstanding for the home side, that provided the most uplifting part of the afternoon.

As United prepare to try to move a step closer towards the goal that has driven them on

for so many years, Earle's assessment of Keane's growing maturity boded well for their chances. "He is the best mid-field player in the country, without any doubt," Earle said. "He has got the edge on Patrick Vieira because you can't rattle him, you can't wind him up like you can with Vieira. Maybe a couple of years ago, but not any more."

"The responsibility of being captain has helped him mature as a person and a player. He doesn't question himself like I think he used to when Paul Ince was at Old Trafford. Ince used to call himself 'the guvnor' and I don't think Keane liked that because that is how he saw himself. Now he is, without any question."

"Since the bad knee injury he got last season, he has reassessed himself, like you have to. He sits and holds in front of the defence, dictating the play. He is without question their most influential player."

Against Juventus, United will rise far beyond the level they reached against Wimbledon's rudderless side. Ryan Giggs, an idle substitute on Saturday, will almost certainly replace Jesper Blomqvist and Jaap Stam should return from injury.

Selhurst Park and its myriad frustrations will be forgotten in an instant when Juventus run out in their black and white shirts. There will be no half measures, no catatonia, on Wednesday night.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N. Sullivan — B. Thatcher, D. Blackwood, C. Perry, A. Kinnear (sub: R. Wicks, 81min), J. Euell, R. Earle, C. Hughes (sub: A. Roberts, 82), M. Hughes, M. Gayle, J. Harrison (sub: G. Cort, 88).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, R. Bero, R. Johnsen, D. Irwin — D. Beckham, R. Keane, P. Scholes, J. Blomqvist (sub: D. G. Solskjaer, 73) — A. Cole, D. Yorke. Referee: G. Barber.

Kidd gets sympathy but no help from old pals

BRIAN KIDD, the Blackburn manager, says that his team "cannot afford to look too far into the distance" as they strive to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership, yet their seven remaining fixtures appear so treacherous that the two points dropped against Middlesbrough on Saturday could prove to be extremely costly.

Blackburn, only a point clear of the relegation places, are left with trips to Arsenal, Southampton, Charlton Athletic and Newcastle United and have home dates with Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United.

Kidd does not need to have the situation spelled out to him — indeed, he chastises the outsiders who remind him of the seriousness of his team's plight — but the fact is that Blackburn need ten more points to be anything like safe and the stakes, whether Kidd likes it or not, will keep rising.

Although he can become prickly, he must be admired for the way that he is trying to throw a protective arm around his players. "I have never understood all that pressure stuff," he said again on Saturday, "but if there is some, it will come on me and I will make sure the players relax."



by Steve Wood

Alas, Blackburn's efforts against Middlesbrough, a team that needed two recent victories to ally their own relegation worries, bordered on the tortuous. Kidd said that "quality in and around the box let us down". Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, singled out the efforts of Gary Ballister, who was coached by Kidd and captained by Robson when the trio were at Old Trafford.

Pallister retains the priceless ability to read the play and frustrate opponents. Chris Sutton, a player adept at backing into his marker, got no change out of the Middlesbrough centre back. Then again, Sutton, who withdrew from the England squad against Poland, was clearly not fit.

Ashley Ward and Callum Davidson went close, with a header and a fizzing shot respectively, but only Matt Jansen, the England Under-21 forward, hinted at the subtlety required to find a way through such a stubborn defence.

Middlesbrough were similarly stupefying in attack until Paul Gascoigne was introduced. The crowd laughed when the midfielder failed to control a simple pass, but they held their breath as he went close to scoring in the final minute with a wonderful free kick from 30 yards, which struck the bar. After only 22 minutes of action, Gascoigne appeared to be in need of a lie-down, but perhaps that was as much to do with the general air of mediocrity as with his lack of fitness.

Before they left Lancashire, Pallister and Robson both spoke of Kidd as a great coach, a good person, a diligent worker. They hoped he would take Blackburn out of trouble. It was all so platitudinous.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): J. Flen — J. McInnes, S. Hendrie, D. Peacock, C. Davidson — D. Johnson, D. Morrison (sub: I. Carr, 60min), J. Wicks — M. Jansen (sub: H. Davies, 83), C. Sutton, A. Ward. MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M. Schwarzer — R. Stockdale, C. Cooper, G. Pallister, D. Gordon — N. Macdonald (sub: P. Gascoigne, 80), M. Summerville, A. Townsend (sub: J. O'Neill, 77), C. Harrison — B. Deane, H. Reed. Referee: A. Wicks.

Wednesday sit back as Coventry step forward

THERE are some things that, simply, you do not do in life: argue with a policeman; serve potatoes with custard; holiday in Eastbourne before the age of 83; move to Rockall. You know it's silly, you don't do it.

Does anybody stand in front of Mike Tyson and say to his face: "You're a nutter, a complete ... etc etc"? Of course not. Does anyone admit to liking British Rail food? No. So why does Joe Public scan the league tables each Easter and say: "Look at Coventry City, they're in trouble, they could go down?"

No they won't, they never do. They flirt with relegation, they flash their pretty little eyelashes at it, lift their hem an inch or two, blush, let it buy them a drink and then tell it that after all that effort, they'd rather not, all the same, but perhaps next time.

And the next time comes, and the next, and every year people fall for it, and on Saturday you could wonder only at the predictability of it all. No matter that Sheffield Wednesday are a decent side on their day, here they were handing over three points like granny with her chocolate eggs.

"It was a funny game, really," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said after-



by Peter Robinson

wards. "You have seen two teams not playing well." So Coventry played badly and won, the sign of a team that is staying up, and Wednesday played badly and lost, the sign of a team that could go down.

It is far too early to say, of course. The Easter programme is only halfway through and making a judgment before Coventry entertain Southampton today and Sheffield cross the Pennines to Everton is premature, at best ... but, well, Coventry will not be relegated, surely, and they showed why at Hillsborough. Whatever weaknesses that they might have, they know how to win, albeit occasionally. Moreover, in Whelan and Huckerby, they have very good strikers who score goals.

Huckerby paved the way for their first, after 18 minutes, breaking from a careless defence before being held by Snicek. McAllister converted the penalty, Snicek was lucky not to be sent off.

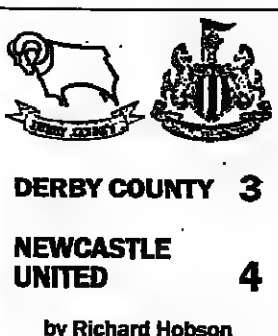
Wednesday reorganised at half-time and equalised shortly after it when Rudi turned in Carbone's bicycle kick. They had chances to win, too, but with the end night, stood back and watched as Huckerby crossed from the right and Whelan tapped the ball home.

Strachan knew that his team had been lucky, but was not complaining. Danny Wilson, his opposite number, had reason to but had more pressing things on his mind — a neck injury to Walker, for instance, that threatens his participation against Everton and therefore his record of starting every league match this season for Wednesday, one that he shares with Atherton, Thorne and Jonk. Now would be a bad time to lose him.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-1-2): P. Snicek — P. Atherton, E. Thorne, D. Walker (sub: J. Newcome, 45min), L. Briers — W. A. Kempson, W. Jonk (sub: P. Scott, 90), P. Rudi — B. Carbone — R. Crosswell, D. Humphreys (sub: D. Sornay, 88).

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hodgson — G. Breen, R. Shaw, P. Williams, M. Edworthy — G. Bosting, G. McAllister (sub: P. Clement, 80), P. Teller, S. Froggatt — D. Huckerby, N. Whelan. Referee: K. Bargin.

Keegan's spirit returns to haunt Derby



by Richard Hobson

NOBODY would mistake Ruud Gullit and Kevin Keegan in an identity parade, but on Saturday Newcastle United bore an uncanny resemblance to the Toon constructed fearlessly by the temporary England manager. Unfortunately for the nerves of the travelling support, comparisons grew to be as valid in defence as in attack.

Going forward, Newcastle might have equalled anything seen in the FA Carling Premiership this season. With Ketsbaia and Maric peeling off the Derby County back three purposefully, Speed breaking from midfield and Hughes sweeping along the right, the confused performances that undermined Gullit's credentials in his formative days at St James's Park became increasingly hard to recall.

True, Derby defended as carelessly as the visitors and two of the goals relied upon deflections. Dabizas, too, might have reacted rather than yellow when he needlessly pulled back Balzano to concede a penalty early on. Yet, ultimately, they were worthy winners.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, suggested that Newcastle played with such freedom because they know qualification for the UEFA Cup was assured. That this could happen

Results and tables 31

by reaching the FA Cup semi-finals has provoked ridicule in certain quarters. However, if the best aspects of their performance at Pride Park are reproduced next Sunday, and the worst are corrected, then Newcastle can make the issue academic by overcoming Tottenham Hotspur. Those who negotiated England's representation next season must be rooting for them to ease what ought to be considerable embarrassment.

By coincidence, Newcastle entertain Tottenham today and while Gullit suggested on Saturday that he will not become involved in mind games with George Graham, some of his comments later suggested he has started already. There was nothing to hide from the Tottenham manager, Gullit said, only for cynicism to prevail over the possibility that Alan Shearer and Duncan Ferguson will return.

Smith dismissed with a gruff chuckle the notion that Derby themselves are now viable candidates for Europe. They have conceded eight goals in the past two matches and badly missed the physical presence of the suspended Daryl Powell. After Burton gave Derby the lead, they allowed Speed a free header to equalise and a clear view of too much of the goal to convert a free kick after Balzano's penalty.

They were punished, too, for allowing Ketsbaia the time to shoot before half-time, when Solano also hit a post. Solano himself was unmarked when he met Ketsbaia's cross with a firm, controlled volley to extend the lead and although Wanchope headed beyond Given in injury time, the minutes had run out for Derby.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R. Hout — S. Prier, H. Carbone (sub: P. Wanchope, 45min), L. Laursen — V. Bericota, S. Schuster (sub: D. Sandridge, 81), L. Bohinen, A. Dongo — F. Balzano — D. Burton, M. Beck.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Given — A. Hughes, L. Charnel, N. Dabizas, A. Griffin — N. Solano (sub: G. Brady, 83), R. Lee, G. Speed, D. Donn — S. Maric (sub: L. Saha, 78), I. Kelsie. Referee: D. Galloway.

Le Tissier's return gives Southampton welcome boost

BY BILL EDGAR

THEIR unbroken spells in the top flight of English football comprise a combined 53 seasons, yet their traditional pose at the summit has been as figures clinging to the mountain edge by their fingertips. Coventry City and Southampton have rarely mixed with the championship challengers and this campaign has been no exception. Pair them in a league match over Easter and the result is more or less guaranteed: a relegation battle.

Coventry have begun the annual test of their immunity to the drop in encouraging fashion, collecting ten points from five games in the

FA Carling Premiership since calculations of safety targets began to be made in earnest. Their optimism for staying up is increased by the away record of Southampton, who visit Highfield Road this afternoon. The team with the lowest goal tally in the Premiership and Nationwide League will be seeking only their second win away from The Dell this season.

Victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday put Coventry four points clear of Southampton, who are third from bottom with seven games remaining. However, the Hampshire side, who earned a creditable

home draw against Arsenal at the weekend, will be heartened by the return from suspension of three midfield players — Matthew Le Tissier, Hassan Kachoul and Chris Marsden. Marian Pahars, the Latvia international, is also in contention to make his debut.

An equally tense game can be expected at Goodison Park, where Everton and Wednesday will also be keen to improve on their perilous positions close to the bottom. Like Coventry and Southampton, they are in a familiar position, having fought a relegation encounter

at the same ground last April, when Everton lost 3-1 but eventually escaped demotion on goal difference.

Defeat by Liverpool on Saturday meant that Everton have gathered just nine points from 13 league games between Christmas and Easter, but Wednesday's form is no better. Having lost their past five matches, they will be keen for Andy Hinchcliffe to recover from a back strain in time to face his former team. Des Walker, his fellow defender, is also a doubt, hampered by a neck problem.

Charlton Athletic's remarkable revival has faltered recently and they will be chasing a first victory in five games when they visit West Ham United today. Their attempt to climb out of the bottom three will be helped if, as expected, Rio Ferdinand has not recovered from the ankle injury that he sustained during West Ham's goalless draw against Aston Villa on Friday.

Nottingham Forest, who "need a few snookers" to survive, according to Ron Atkinson, their manager, may struggle to trouble Liverpool, who won 5-1 when the teams met at Anfield earlier in the

season. The return from suspension of Pierre van Hooijdonk and Chris Bart-Williams is unlikely to help avoid defeat for a team that has lost its past six home games.

Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur, the latter guaranteed a UEFA Cup place next season and the former almost so, get a chance to size each other up before their FA Cup semi-final meeting at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Middlesbrough are away to Wimbledon, with Paul Gascoigne returning to the starting line-up after he began the away game with Blackburn Rovers at the weekend on the substitutes' bench.



Hinchcliffe: back strain

Rushden suffer for late lapses

Rushden and Diamonds ... 1
Cheltenham Town ... 2

By Keith Pike

THEY are the Manchester United of non-league football: the club with the best stadium, wealthiest benefactor and only fully-professional squad good enough to take Leeds United to an FA Cup replay. But since when did biggest automatically equal best? When the Nationwide Conference season ends, all that may count for nothing for the want of 120 seconds' more composure.

For 58 minutes on Saturday, Rushden and Diamonds were the sharper and stronger team as the two best defences in the Conference locked horns with the most prolific attacks. Then their world fell apart.

Victory would have left Rushden as masters of their own destiny. Instead, it is Cheltenham Town who know that maximum points from their last seven games will bring league football to Gloucestershire for the first time. It is a tough ask. With cup commitments, they face ten games in 27 days, starting today against Kidderminster Harriers and, unlike Rushden, they are genuine part-timers.

Yet whatever their status there is no doubt that the momentum is now firmly with Steve Cotterill's team. "We haven't got the largest squad," he said, "but the players have been magnificent."

As many as 1,000 were locked out of a match that attracted 6,132, the biggest crowd in the Conference this season. Those that got in saw De Souza scramble Rushden's opener in the 21st minute, an advantage that Cheltenham rarely threatened to erase.

Then, with two minutes to go, a short-corner routine caught Rushden napping and a cross by Duff was headed in at the far post by Freeman. Rushden were then left in disbelief as Freeman released Brough and Grayson prodded in a momentous winner.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (3-5-3): M Smith — J. Brown, D. Brashaw, G. Brashaw — I. Wooding, M. McElhatton, C. Hogg, M. Cooper, P. Underwood — D. Collins, M. De Souza.

CHELTEHAM TOWN (3-5-3): S. Bosc — J. Brough, C. Banks, N. Howarth (subs: M. Freeman, G. Grayson) — M. Duff, D. Weston, R. Bloomer (subs: R. Mason, D. L. Howells, J. Victory) — N. Grayson, D. Bailey (subs: N. Knight, T. J.).

Referee: S. French

Nationwide League: Burley hails team as Swindon take heavy beating

Rampant Ipswich recall glory years

Swindon Town 0
Ipswich Town 6

By David Powell

TYPICAL of the beaten football manager's refusal to acknowledge a gulf in class, Jimmy Quinn had insisted that his Swindon Town team were not four goals worse than Queens Park Rangers in their last match. This time he knew the argument would not wash. So he went the other way.

"Six flattered us, it could have been ten," Quinn said. Ipswich Town, producing a performance of rare quality for a Nationwide League first division side, should have broken their club record for league a victory. It remains 7-0, against Portsmouth (1964), Southampton (1974) and West Bromwich Albion (1976).

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, played in the last two of those, and in a 6-0 victory away to Notts County in 1982. Those were the days of Thijsen and Warik, Mariner

and Mills, memories fresh from lifting the FA Cup and Uefa Cup, of a slick Ipswich passing game.

The control, the accuracy, on Saturday was reminiscent of Ipswich in their pomp, though Burley declined to draw comparisons. Yet he did not keep the lid shut on the superlatives. "A magnificent performance from start to finish," Burley said. "A tremendous achievement, but it was not just the goals, it was the manner in which we played. It would have graced any Premiership ground."

The man advantage enjoyed by Ipswich for 33 minutes eased the path and Quinn was furious. "You cannot legislate for an outfield player thinking he is a goalkeeper," Quinn said after Craig Taylor had been sent off for using his hands to keep out a shot by Matt Holland. Such emergency action near the end, with a lead to protect, may provide a different argument. After seven minutes, it was foolish.

Mark Venus struck the first



Wilnis, left, has good reason to celebrate after scoring the sixth goal that completed his team's destruction of Swindon Town

of his two penalties and Ipswich, with James Scowcroft, Tony Mowbray and Jamie Clapham also contributing goals, were five up in 62 minutes. Fabian Wilnis added a sixth after 75 minutes, but, either side of his goal, David Johnson was profligate with four chances.

At other times, Richard Naylor allowed himself to be tack-

led after going clean through and Jimmy Glass made good saves from Clapham and Johnson. These may yet count against Ipswich, who have scored nine fewer goals than Bradford City, their main challengers for the second automatic promotion place.

Ipswich claimed their 28th point out of 33 played since they lost to Sunderland and

Quinn can see why. This was football as it is meant to be played.

For Swindon, the slide from mid-table continues with a fourth successive defeat and, while admitting his team's shortcomings, Quinn slipped in a line of self-defence. "We were third from bottom when I came here," Quinn said. He has picked them up once. Can

he do it again? Huddersfield Town are the opponents today, which is where Quinn came in last October.

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): J. Glass — D. Linton, B. Borrows (subs: R. Hubert, 46min), A. Reeves, S. Davis, R. C. Hay, 78 — J. Howie, C. Taylor, G. Hall, T. Gooden — J. O'Connell, S. Bradley (subs: M. Walters, 64).
IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-3): R. Wright — A. Tanner (subs: J. Conroy, 57), A. Mowbray, M. Venus — F. Wilnis, M. Scowcroft (subs: R. Naylor, 71), J. Magilton, M. Holland, J. Clapham — J. Scowcroft (subs: M. Hester, 77), D. Johnson.
Referee: P. Page.

Sharpe makes his mark

Bradford City 3
Grimsby Town 0

By Martin Woods

ABSOLUTELY, completely, utterly. Thus spoke Lee Sharpe about his first goal for his new club on his home debut when admitting his scoring shot was a miskick.

A top-of-the-range miskick, as it happens, for it put the home side 2-0 up and settled their nerves just when it seemed that Grimsby might salvage something from a game strangled by that peculiar tension that afflicts those

involved in a promotion contest. Not that Paul Jewell, the Bradford manager, has made athletics a priority, for he is acutely aware that this promotion contest is not about beauty. "We were rather nervous today for the first time," he said.

Robbie Blake gave City the lead after 11 minutes when, from a long punt by Gary Walsh, the Bradford goalkeeper, Jamie Lawrence, challenged Andy Love, the Grimsby goalkeeper, and Blake fired in his fifteenth goal of the season.

Sharpe, on loan until the end of the season from Leeds United, having spent three for-

gettable months with Sampdoria, scored in the 76th minute when he embarrassed Love with his close-range miskick from an acute angle from Peter Beagrie's left-wing cross.

In injury time, Beagrie curled a free kick from just outside the Grimsby penalty area sweetly into the top right-hand corner of the goal.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G. Walsh — L. Todd (subs: L. Sharpe, 46min), D. Moore, A. Westwood, W. Jacobs — J. Lawrence, S. McCull, G. Whalley, P. Beagrie — R. Blake (subs: A. O'Brien, 89), L. Wells (subs: D. Westwood, 44).
GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A. Love — J. Mc Dermott, P. Hendry, R. Smith (subs: S. Livingston, 55), T. Gallimore — K. Donovan, S. Calcutt, P. Stevens, K. Black (subs: W. Barlow, 73) — J. Lester (subs: L. Ashcroft, 63), L. Norman.
Referee: G. Laws.

Bolton grateful to Banks

Oxford United 0
Bolton Wanderers 0

By Nick Szczepanik

EVEN their own supporters must feel that promotion to the FA Cup is a long way off for Bolton Wanderers. Immediate relegation followed both previous promotions and one cannot help thinking that it would be third time unlucky if they were to squeak up again.

The team that scored 100 goals on its way to the 1996-97

first division championship could not survive, so what hope is there for the present squad? They have won only one of their past eight games and on Saturday were spared embarrassment at the hands of a team 15 places below them only by wayward finishing and the inspired form of Steve Banks, their goalkeeper.

Scoring a goal of their own was never a possibility. Colin Todd, the manager, admitted that Bolton were lucky to get a point, but there is little evidence that any of the chasing pack are capable of denying them a place in the play-offs.

Oxford, although still in considerable relegation danger, seemed to be improving on and off the pitch. They would have celebrated the arrival of Firoz Kassam, their new owner, with a second successive victory but for Banks, signed from Blackpool on transfer deadline day for a cut-price £50,000, who made outstanding saves from Matt Murphy and Kevin Francis.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-3): P. Landon — L. Robinson, M. Wilson, P. Calhoun, P. Powell — M. Murphy, M. Gray, P. Tait, N. Bangs — N. Francis, A. Thomson (subs: M. Williams, 78min).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): S. Banks — N. Conn, M. Fitch, P. Warrnall, J. Phillips — M. Johnson, P. Farnsworth, A. Todd, J. Fullerton (subs: R. Gardner, 67) — E. Gushon (subs: B. Hansen, 78), D. Holdsworth.
Referee: A. Bates.

Phillips turns up volume control

Sunderland 3
West Bromwich Albion 0

By Bill Edgar

THE mist that shrouded the Stadium of Light soon became their only hope. Unable to cope with waves of attacks, West Bromwich Albion would have welcomed a thickening of the fog and a merciful abandonment. The elements showed them no compassion, but their eventual defeat was no cause for gloom: Sunderland have long been out of sight at the top of the Nationwide League first division.

If vision was slightly impaired, the sound of the home support was emphatic. The bowl-like ground helps to keep noise levels high and it is no wonder that in 43 League matches played in the stadium during its short history, only three visiting teams have overcome such intimidation to emerge victorious.

Sunderland supporters now turn up more in expectation than hope. Within 90 seconds, their team had forced two goal-mouth scrambles, won three corners, hit a post and been denied a penalty for pushing. Thereafter, only a series of fine saves by Phil Whitehead prevented a repeat of the seven-goal rout to which he was a party while playing on this ground earlier in the season when with Oxford United.

The championship that should soon be Sunderland's will have been achieved despite the handicap of injuries to key players, notably Lee Clark and Kevin Phillips, who have both missed more than three months of this campaign.

On Saturday, Clark scored the second goal, from 25 yards, while Phillips took his tally to 17 this season with a long-range shot in the 25th minute and a header just after half-time. "The atmosphere was tremendous," he said. "If you can't enjoy playing in that, you can't enjoy anything."

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T. Sorrensen — C. Morris, J. Campbell, P. Butler, M. Gray — N. Summerbee, K. Ball (subs: D. Holloway, 78min), L. Clark, A. Johnson (subs: M. Broad, 74) — N. Davis (subs: D. Dcho, 61), F. Phillips.
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-1-1): P. Whitehead — D. Cabdotti, S. Murphy, M. Carlson, G. Foster — J. Quinn (subs: M. Angel, 42), M. Borkowski, J. van Blerk, T. Kilbane (subs: B. Hansen, 78), D. Holdsworth.
Referee: G. Cash.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NEXT SUNDAY, WE OUT THE INCREDIBLY RICH.

RICH
2000
LIST
2000
1999

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Cooke keeps City hopes simmering

Manchester City 1
Wigan Athletic 0

By A Correspondent

A MEDIOCRE performance, one decisive goalkeeping oddity in their favour and three points secured — the very essence of promotion form which may yet see Manchester City take their place in the Nationwide League first division automatically next season.

However, it was with relief rather than rapture that City's huge following greeted the final whistle that sounded a narrow victory over Wigan. The nerve of both players and supporters will be tested again today during the encounter with the team most likely to deny them that vital second place, Preston North End.

City have emerged as con-

tenders by virtue of a run that has witnessed one defeat in 17 league matches. For the past 14 of those, Joe Royle, the manager, has had the services of Terry Cooke, a winger, on loan from Manchester United, who scored his fourth goal in as many games on Saturday after an astonishing error by Roy Carroll, the Wigan goalkeeper.

In the 52nd minute, Carroll advanced to claim a pass from Jamie Pollock, but, aware that his momentum would carry him out of the penalty area, he dropped the ball that he had just caught, inviting Cooke to shoot home, which he did.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): N. Weaver — L. Crooks, G. Winkens, T. Vaughan, R. Edgill — T. Cooke (subs: K. Horlock, 66min), J. Pollock, I. Bannock, M. Brown — S. Gosler, P. Dickov (subs: D. Alsop, 21).
WIGAN ATHLETIC (3-5-2): R. Carroll — C. Bradshaw, P. McShane, C. Gilchrist, S. Barker, J. Sharpe — D. Lee (subs: I. Pittford, 73), A. Potter, M. O'Neill — S. Barlow, G. Jones (subs: D. Lowe, 73).
Referee: G. Davies.

McFarland ready for happy returns

Cambridge United 0
Cardiff City 0

By Andy Stephens

YOU would not need to be a rocket scientist to know what Roy McFarland, the Cambridge United manager, wishes for when he shuts his eyes and blows out the candles on his birthday cake this evening. Promotion as champions of the Nationwide League third division will do very nicely, thank you.

Cardiff City were in no mood to offer McFarland, who is 51 today, any early gifts at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday, but the Welsh club — the league leaders — will have derived less pleasure from the final scoreline, for it means that Cambridge, two points behind them but with as

many games in hand, remain favourites to secure the title.

McFarland acknowledged as much after a scrappy, goalless match, when he said: "Today was a point gained rather than two points lost. We've worked hard to get ourselves into a good position, but it will count for nothing unless we concentrate during the next five weeks."

Cardiff, marginally the better team on Saturday, almost snatched victory ten minutes from time when Bowen was narrowly denied — but who would he have been to spoil McFarland's party?

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-3-3): S. Marshall — B. Chenev, A. Duncan, S. Eustace, J. Campbell — N. Musoke, P. Wainess, I. Ashbee — J. Taylor (subs: R. Walker, 90 min), M. Butler, N. McInnes.
CARDIFF CITY (4-4-2): J. Halloworth — W. O'Sullivan, M. Ford, G. Marshall, J. Egan — A. Lapp, R. Carpenter, J. Power, D. Hill (subs: C. Medwell, 75) — J. Bowen (subs: J. Williams, 61), K. Nugent.
Referee: M. Dean.

English are kept on their toes

DESPITE having spent five years in the European wilderness because of the post-Heyes ban and then taking nearly twice as long to recover from the absence, English clubs have still won more European trophies than any other country. Signs of a possible return to their pre-eminence, in the forms of Manchester United and Chelsea, may be timely if they are to retain historical superiority over the Italians, who have collected one cup fewer.

United's European Cup semi-final against Juventus this week is therefore significant in this context — and the omens from Italy over the weekend were good for the English. Visiting an Empoli team seven points adrift at the foot of Serie A, Juventus suffered their first defeat in seven matches since Carlo Ancelotti replaced Marcello Lippi as coach.

The Turin side, who play the first leg of their semi-final at Old Trafford on Wednesday, lost 1-0 to a goal in the 26th minute by Stefano Blacconi. Admittedly, Juventus rested Filippo Inzaghi and

Antonio Conte before fielding them for the second half, but they were frustrated enough for Alessio Tacchinardi to be sent off eight minutes from time.

Even though Italy's European Cup allocation has been increased to four for next season, Juventus's only route to

the competition may be to win it this season, as they are seven points below the qualification level in Serie A, in seventh place. Lazio extended their lead at the top to six points by drawing 0-0 at home to AC Milan, while Fiorentina, in second place, lost 2-0 away to Internazionale, for whom Ronaldo capped a fine display by scoring both goals from the penalty spot.

Chelsea are likely to face a stubborn defence when Real Mallorca visit Stamford Bridge on Thursday for the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final. The Spaniards kept their remarkable record of having conceded only 21 league goals this season when they won 2-0 away to Villarreal yesterday, with late goals from Leo Biagini and Dani.

Mallorca remain sixth in a table led by Barcelona, who beat Real Oviedo 3-1 with a

hat-trick from Rivaldo, of Brazil.

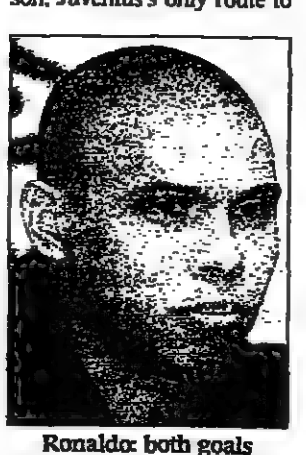
Like United, Bayern Munich remain on course for a treble of European Cup and domestic league and cup. The Germans, who travel to face Dynamo Kiev in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday, are already through to the German cup final, in which they will face Werder Bremen, and, on Saturday, they extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to 15 points by recovering from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 away to Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern, who had won their past eight league matches without conceding a goal, fell behind to two strikes by Heiko Herrlich before half-time, but fought back through efforts from Alexander Zickler and Carsten Jancker. Sammy Koufou, of Bayern, and Stefan Reuter, of Dortmund, were sent off in a match that also featured a missed penalty by Lars Ricken, of Dortmund. Bayer Leverkusen beat Kaiserslautern 1-0 to displace their hosts behind Bayern.

hat-trick from Rivaldo, of Brazil.

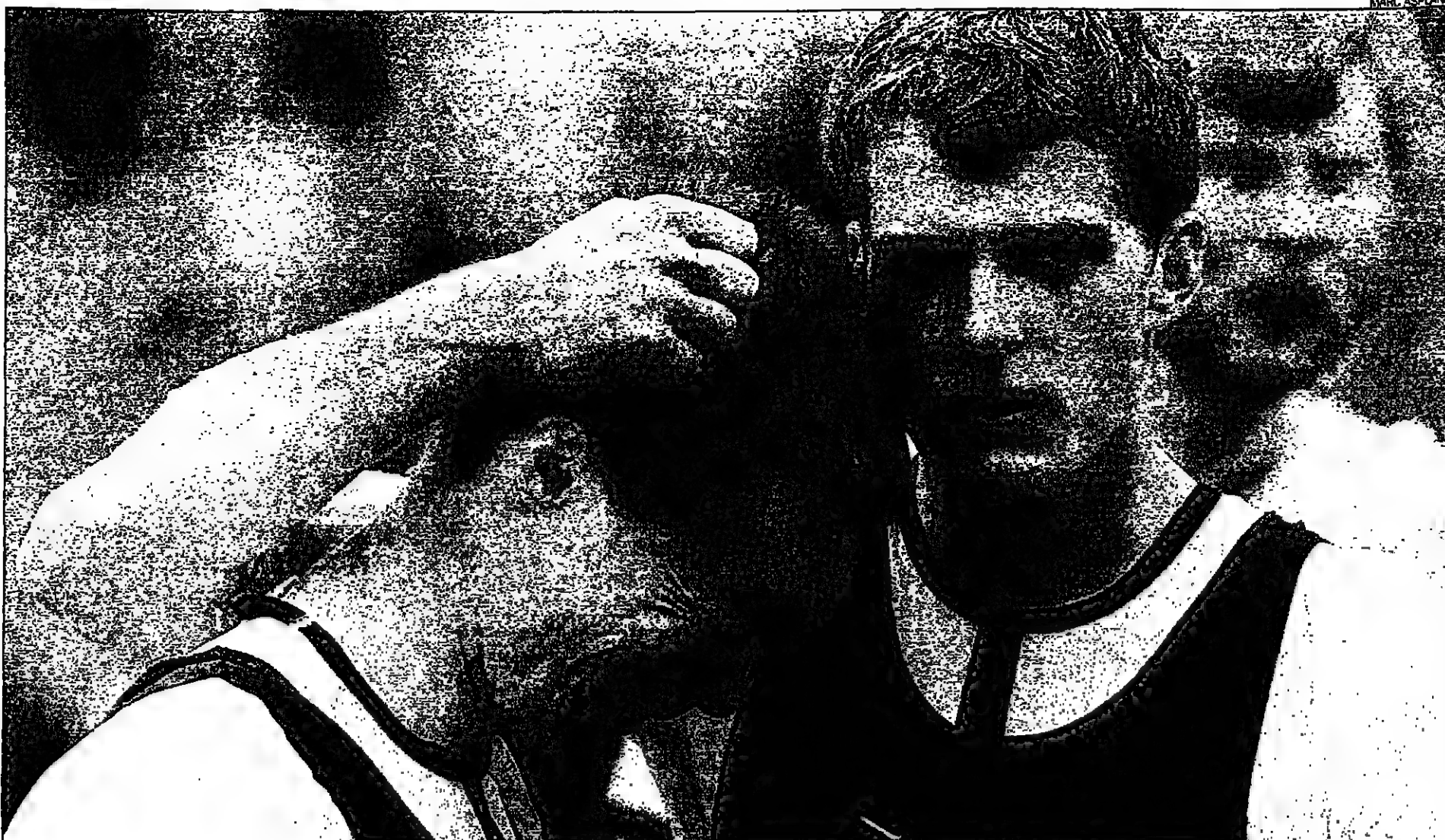
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Ronaldo: both goals

حيدر بن الامير



The irreconcilable moment of defeat and the ultimate truth of the Boat Race are in this photograph. Colin von Ettingshausen, a hardened German Olympic silver medalist and world champion, is reduced to tears, comforted by Daniel Snow, a first-year Oxford University student, after the realisation that method, not man, has carried Cambridge University and their supremacy from this millennium to the next.

The ecstasy and the agony are always encapsulated when the 16½ minutes of the Boat Race are over: but now, more than ever, what is decisive is that Oxford, for all their ambition to read social studies, cannot eliminate the harmony and the know-how that is coached into the students of Cambridge, for the past seven years the supreme university.

For this, Cambridge have to thank Robin Williams. He has been in command for five years, never losing the Boat Race, taking over from Sean Bowden, who now experiences annual defeat with the Dark Blues of Oxford. Moreover, the formula of looking inward into the potential already at Cambridge was established a decade ago by a previous coach, Mark Lees, who trained his crews with such intensity that he fell victim to pneumonia.

For example, Williams, a mild man from Monmouth, had chosen for this year's crew Toby Wallace, a student from Wiltshire reading management studies, whom he spotted playing hockey for Cambridge. Wallace was in

Cambridge formula reigns supreme

the bow of the boat and was to the fore of the affection shown after the race to Vian Sharif, the diminutive blonde cox, who had triumphed over those critics who had doubted her ability.

Before, inevitably, her crew tossed her into the Thames, like fishermen returning a minnow. Sharif answered in the only way possible. "I know people had doubts," she said defiantly, "but I didn't care."

Indeed not, with an umpire as decisive and as firm as Mark Evans. The end of the cox wars that had threatened previous races was thankfully at hand. Coach Williams said of Sharif, 19, who is scarcely bigger than Williams's own 7-year-old daughter Elizabeth:

Rob Hughes sees Oxford reduced to tears as the Light Blues hammer home Boat Race truths

"Look at her, she carried a heck of a lot of responsibility, but she was big today, she kept a cool head and a stern discipline."

Williams, who celebrates his 40th birthday today, maintained an almost Biblical adherence in being true to his own self. He had doubts this year, visited upon him by the constant stories from within Oxford that this time the recruitment of high-class rowers and the equalling of power would break the sequence of what is

now a record seven consecutive Light Blues victories.

"I was pretty worried on Friday," Williams conceded. "We needed to put a few basics right and with the word coming that Oxford really rated themselves, with the way they had gone in warm-up races, I honestly did wonder if this time we would prevail."

However, it is not for the coach to transmit fear or self-doubt and the Williams credo to his charges on Saturday was "don't try anything we have not

done over the past six months". In other words, trust in the method, in the cohesion, in the sharing of that teamwork for six hours a day over half the year, in the longer strokes and in the ability to relax momentarily at the height of the pull and trust that it would maintain the balanced, even surge that is the hallmark of Cambridge University rowing.

In victory, or defeat, some look for reasons, others simply draw reason out of the demeanour of men. Von Ettingshausen, whose father, Baron Othmar von Ettingshausen, from Dusseldorf, was on the towpath sharing first the pride then the despair, was one face of defeat. Another, an enduring vision of manhood in sports,

was Charlie Humphreys. When the race was run, Humphreys remained inert in the bow of the Oxford boat, a man draped over his own knees like a coat slung over an armchair. Eventually, he rose and, his cheeks flushed with effort spent, his eyes refusing to permit more of those tears, he crossed the divide between the victors and the vanquished.

This former Hampshire scholar is 22 and he had put himself forward to be the president of Oxford University Boat Club in this, his fourth year of coming to the Thames on Easter Saturday. Four years and now four defeats, starting in the Isis reserve boat, and yet he had the courage, the decency, the impulse to walk to each of the opposing eight and their cox and to offer his hand, sometimes with only a silent appreciation.

A career in biochemistry beckons Humphreys now, but some of his crew will be back to challenge next year and the year after until they reach and surpass the omnipotence of Cambridge. Humphreys acknowledged that it might require the whole engine of Oxford's rowing to be stripped down to basics and that every aspect of their rowing may need reappraisal, but in spirit the race just lost was a prelude to a challenge reborn.

Meanwhile, Williams was rejoicing at a portent for Easter in 2000. "You know what really thrills me," he said, "is that Goldie beat Isis. They were physically the weaker crew, but they came through." Of course they did; they were coached in the same system.

Oxford fail to live up to expectations

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

IN 1993, Oxford, with Matthew Pinsent as president, were Boat Race favourites and lost by 3½ lengths. In the 145th Boat Race on Saturday, Oxford were again favourites and again lost by 3½ lengths.

The comparisons end there, however, since, in 1993, Oxford had won for the previous six years. Their defeat on Saturday was their seventh in succession and came at a time when some Cambridge supporters were quietly harbouring doubts about their crew. Even Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, admitted that he was worried by his team's "inconsistency" two days prior to the race.

Once again, though, he, his men and one woman managed to get it right on the day. Their rhythm, length, tactics and mental approach were all faultless and left a shell-shocked expression on the face of Sean Bowden, the Oxford coach, when he disembarked from his launch.

Cambridge won the toss and chose Surrey, pleasing Alan Inns, the international cox and tide-way expert, who had been tutoring Vian Sharif, the Cambridge cox, in the run-up to the event. Cambridge received an early warning from Mark Evans, the umpire, but led by half a length at the two-minute mark and had settled well.

After the race, Graham Smith, the Cambridge No 7, reflected on the lift that the crew had received when they found themselves in this position. "I looked across and they weren't moving on us. It felt marvellous. You don't expect things to be that easy in the Boat Race."

Oxford had the Fulham bend still to come, but they did not capitalise on it. An effort by Neil O'Donnell, their cox, to push Cambridge wide misfired when he was warned. There was a slight dash, but Cambridge held on to lead by 1500 at the Mile.

Oxford, still overlapping, spurred past Harrods Wharf. Cambridge replied and were warned, but Sharif and her

crew reached Hammersmith Bridge at the better angle and were one length up. If Smith had been enjoying the race at Putney, the rest of the crew were doing so now, moving steadily away with a long, smooth rhythm at a controlled 34 strokes per minute. The lead opened to 7500 at Chiswick Steps, 9000 at Barnes Bridge and had reached 15000 by the finish as Cambridge recorded the second-fastest time in the event's 170-year history.

Five of this year's Cambridge boat and seven of the Goldie reserves were new to the Cambridge experience and Goldie excelled to win



Cambridge 16:04.31, 16m 41.80	Intermediate times
The Mile: Cambridge 3:37, Oxford 3:38	Hammersmith Bridge: Cambridge 6:27, Oxford 6:30
Chiswick Steps: Cambridge 10:13, Oxford 10:17	Barnes Bridge: Cambridge 13:49, Oxford 13:58
Finish: Cambridge 16:41, Oxford 16:52	Reserve race
Goldie 16:58 (new record) 16:58	Goldie 16:58 (new record) 16:58

their challenge, despite being the pre-race underdogs. In a new record time, with a crew composed entirely of British undergraduates, apart from Sean Coshin, a Canadian. All of the Goldie crew are set to return next year.

Cambridge are clearly on a great run. They have not had seven consecutive wins since 1936 and the spirit in their camp is infectious, a spirit summed up, perhaps, by Colin Swainson, the last man to get in to Goldie and who, incidentally, lives in Oxford.

"The first five minutes of the row were out of this world," he said. "The rest was for Brad [the Cambridge president] and the Blue Boat. The Blue Boat heard of Goldie's win before they started. It was worth half a length to us."



Cambridge settle into a smooth stroke as they pull towards a seventh consecutive victory. Photograph: Marc Aspland



Sharif, the Cambridge cox, receives the traditional ducking

Francis plays Hide and seek

JULIUS FRANCIS is to seek a world title bout after the successful defence of his British heavyweight championship against Danny Williams of Brixton at the Albert Hall on Saturday. This being Francis's second heavyweight triumph for Frank Maloney, his promoter, over opponents in the care of Maloney's rival, Frank Warren, the Woolwich boxer would like to make it three in a row for his manager.

Francis wants to challenge Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organization (WBO) champion. Since Francis outpointed Williams by a margin of four rounds and Williams has previously had Hide out on his feet and then on the floor in sparring, the British champion can be forgiven for thinking that he has a reasonable chance of beating Hide. However, Francis may have to wait for

BOXING

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Hide to first take on Vitaly Klitschko in June, as the Ukrainian is the mandatory challenger.

Even though Francis beat Williams by a clear margin, the bout was still an exciting one down to the final bell, with Williams's supporters hoping that he might come up with a knockout punch.

Williams launched three onslaughts against Francis in the sixth, seventh and tenth rounds, putting the champion under pressure, but Francis boxed generally well behind the jab and carried the fight to Williams. The challenger's only

response was to hide behind his gloves, which were not always effective in warding off Francis's blows.

It had been hoped that Williams, who at 25 is nine years younger than the champion, would give some indication of his potential, but he was a disappointment. He put his punches together with great force and he appears to have a good chin, but he has still to be coached on pacing himself.

Marco Antonio Barrera, of Mexico, gave a display of quality boxing on the same bill, chopping down Paul Lloyd from Ellesmere Port in just one round. Even though Lloyd was the European champion, he looked no more than a novice before the WBO super-bantamweight title-holder, and there was immediately talk of Barrera facing Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champion.

Leeds bid to get back on track

SO FAR, London Broncos have balanced getting to Wembley and maintaining their form in the JJB Super League better than Leeds Rhinos, their opponents in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month.

Their dress-rehearsal at Headingley today is the chance for Leeds to get their league campaign back on track after defeats by Wigan Warriors and Bradford Bulls. For London, it represents a first crack at leading opposition on the ground where they beat Castledford Tigers to reach Wembley ten days ago.

The news that Shaun Edwards is unlikely to be fit for his eleventh cup final appearance after ten in a Wigan shirt is partly compensated by the return at scrum half of Glen Air, who injured a knee in pre-season training.

With Grant Young and Darren Brad-

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Christopher Irvine

street, two props, out with long-term injuries, the biggest day in London's history is in danger of being undermined. The club is making a bid for Ian Roberts, the former Australia forward, while Anthony Seibold, who is cup-tied, makes his first full appearance in the pack after a try-scoring debut off the bench in the Hull match.

Leeds, whose Super League ambitions are at risk of a third league defeat, give a full debut at loose forward to Kevin Sinfield. Dean Lawford takes over at scrum half from Ryan Sheridan, who has a slight knee injury.

St Helens confront Bradford, another unbeaten side, at Knowsley Road. Paul Davidson is available after suspension, but Ellery Hanley, the coach, is expected to retain the side that won last Friday at Wigan.

Denis Betts returns to the Wigan second row after a seven-month absence. Jason Robinson switches from the wing to scrum half and Lee Gilmour moves out of the pack to centre for the match away at Wakefield.

Hull, without a league win, have been struck down by injuries to four key players — Andrew Purcell, Karl Harrison, Andy Ireland and Fifi Seru — for the home match against Sheffield Eagles, for whom Dale Cardozo is on standby after an injury to Daio Powell, the centre, in their opening league win over Huddersfield Giants.

APRIL
Cricket Coca-Cola Cup
in Sharjah
Sky Sports 2

MAY
Cricket World Cup
begins
Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3

JUNE
Cricket World Cup
Semi's and Final
Sky Sports 1

JULY
England v New Zealand
1st Test Live
Sky Sports 1

AUGUST
County Cricket Super
Cup Tournament
Sky Sports 1

SPORTS 1

SPORTS 2

SPORTS 3

SPORTS
NEWS

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سكاي من الاصل

Powerful Collins too hot to handle

Wales Youth.....0
New Zealand Youth.....25

By GERALD DAVIES

WITH a masterful display of cohesive forward play, New Zealand won the 31st world junior championship in front of a full house of 13,000 at Stradey Park, Llanelli yesterday. Such was their sense of achievement in having won five games in the past ten days, in celebration, in performing their haka for the second time in the afternoon.

Their strength and discipline overcame a spirited but flawed Welsh team, who attempted to play a game of long passes, which were highly risky in the difficult wet conditions and played into the hands of a closely-knit defence.

The core of New Zealand's strength was to be found in their back row. Bates and McCaw were a marauding pair of flankers who consumed the Wales midfield, while, in Jerry Collins, New Zealand had a No 8 who, both in attack and defence, was firmly in his country's tradition of influential players in this position.

As early as the tenth minute, he drove so effectively into the heart of the Welsh defence that he set up a move that ended with Mauer handing on to Fasaolu for the wing to canter over. New Zealand were never quite as threatening after Collins came off eight minutes into the second half.

Wales relied too much on the interventions of Williams from full back, whilst the teamwork of their opponents eventually produced a steamroller effect on the thin red line of defence.

SCORES: New Zealand: Tries: G Fasaolu 2 (10, 14), J Mauer (44), R Walters (51). Conversion: R Fuley. Penalty goal: R Fuley (52).

Worcester's hopes stall at Moseley

Moseley18
Worcester16

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

THE rise of Worcester has been relentless. From Midlands Two West ten years ago, they have advanced inexorably to the brink of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. So it was again this season, as they set the pace from the start, or jogged comfortably alongside Bristol at the top of the second division.

Three defeats in their past four games, though, have changed all that. Time is running out and the deficit is now four points. Worcester play Rotherham and Bristol, their promotion rivals, their promotion rivals, in the last two games of the season, but Les Cusworth, the director of rugby, appears already to have thrown in the towel. "Things are well and truly stacked against us," he said.

John Lily, the Worcester full back, has kicked important points from all over the park in a long career, but it was his failure to convert two penalty attempts in the last three minutes that proved costly.

Moseley, though, did not deserve to lose. They tore into Worcester from the first whistle and dominated for an hour, while Worcester were guilty of failing to do the fundamentals well, before Jon Goodwin scored in the 62nd minute.

SCORES: Worcester: Tries: Martin (59), Bading (48). Conversion: Burns. Penalty goals: Burns 2 (38, 43). Worcester: Try: Goodwin (62). Conversion: Lily. Penalty goal: Lily 3 (9, 38, 47).

Tetley's Bitter Cup: North v South encounter promises classic final

Wasps win chance to make final amends

Wasps35
Gloucester21

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WASPS, who have played in four finals and have yet to win one, will have even greater motivation for their fifth attempt. Their success at Loftus Road yesterday against a brave but limited Gloucester means that they will play the Tetley's Bitter Cup final at Twickenham on May 15 against Newcastle Falcons, the team orchestrated by a swarm of former Wasps.

When Rob Andrew left Sudbury for the North East four years ago, he took with him Steve Baines, Dean Ryan, Graham Childs and Nick Popplewell. Subsequently, Va'aiga Tuigamala made the same journey and although there is no lingering resentment, there will be an added savour to a classic north v south confrontation.

The two clubs meet in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on April 18 at Loftus Road in a game that will be particularly significant since both seek to qualify for Europe by finishing in the top six. But the cup final will prove to be a wonderful carrot to sustain players until mid-May, as well as an opportunity for Wasps to erase the memories of the final last year, when they arrived injured and weary and conceded 48 points to Saracens.

"The memory of last year hurts," Nigel Melville, the director of rugby at Wasps — finalists in 1986, 1987, 1995 and 1998 — said. "We want to put that right. But this time we are in good health, our top players haven't been overplayed and we haven't had the injuries we did then. We think we are a better side one year on."

They are certainly far more efficient, save in the concession of penalties. Four tries to none tells its own tale against a Gloucester side of limited means. It will be little consolation to the West Countrymen that they contributed significantly to a vibrant semi-final — watched by a 10,000 crowd, of whom nearly half came from Gloucester — that contained far more good rugby than the first semi-final at Reading on Saturday.

Had Terry Fanolua been awarded the first-half try that he appeared to have scored, Gloucester would probably have taken a seven-point lead into the interval. Instead, his near-miss — Mark Maplettoff had to be content with the third of his six penalty goals instead — acted as a wake-up call for Wasps, who scored a try, corrected the deficiencies at the lineout and took a grip on affairs in the second half.

They played neat, composed rugby throughout, based on a solid defence that only Chris Catling and Fanolua threatened. In three matches this season, Gloucester have yet to break the Wasps' line and the departure of Fanolua on a stretcher with a knee injury, four minutes after the interval, did nothing to assist that record. The selection of Simon Mannix at fly half, with Maplettoff dispatched to the wing, acknowledged Gloucester's readiness to defend rather than offer a midfield threat.

Even more disappointing was the concession of the first try from what should have been Gloucester ball. Kenny Logan and Maplettoff had exchanged penalties before Ian Sanders dropped the goal that levelled matters at 9-9. Fanolua, driven over by his forwards, was recalled so that Maplettoff could punish Wasps for offside, but the lead lasted just two minutes.



Henderson, centre, bursts through the Gloucester rearguard for the first of Wasps' four tries at Loftus Road yesterday

Joe Worsley stole away from a Gloucester lineout, Alex King created space for Rob Henderson and the Ireland centre hurried through to the posts. Eleven minutes into the second half, Paul Sampson sprinted to the line, although there was some doubt whether he had grounded the ball. It was a double strike from which Gloucester never recovered. Maplettoff kicked two

goals where Logan could not, but they had no response to Wasps' finishing. A series of forward drives left Lawrence Dallaglio five metres from the line and, from the scrum, Worsley and Wood worked Paul Volley into the corner.

The black tide was running strongly and twice the Gloucester defence faltered before Wood and Worsley, yet again, paved the way for Logan to be driven over by his pack. The Scot carried his match tally to 20 points by kicking the conversion from the touchline.

SCORES: Wasps: Tries: Henderson (40), Sampson (51), Volley (70), Logan (81). Conversion: Logan 3. Penalty goals: Logan 3 (10, 21, 23). Gloucester: Penalty goals: Maplettoff 6 (11, 27, 38, 59, 61, 74). Dropped goal: Sanders (51).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wasps lead): 3-0, 5-3, 9-3, 9-4, 9-4, 9-12, 18-12 (half-time), 23-12, 23-15, 23-18, 28-18, 28-21, 35-21.

WASPS: J. Lawrence, P. Sampson, F. Walters, R. Henderson, K. Logan, A. King, M. Wood, D. Volley, T. Lacey, W. Green, M. Weir, D. Shaw (captain), A. Reed, 44-55, 69, 1. Dallaglio, P. Volley, J. Wood. GLoucester: C. Catling, M. Maplettoff, T. Fanolua (captain), R. Greenfield-Jones, 44, R. Tordoff, P. Saint-André, S. Mannix, I. Sanders, T. Woodman, M. McCarty (captain), C. Forley, 58, A. Dawson (captain), P. Vickers, 68, R. Fidler, M. Cornwell (captain), D. Sims, 58, S. O'Connell, N. Carter, E. Pritchard. Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester).

Tuigamala leads Newcastle to Twickenham

Richmond3
Newcastle Falcons20

By MARK SOUSTER

AT WOOLER livestock market in Northumberland last week, the locals were berating Va'aiga Tuigamala for his lacklustre performance in Newcastle's record trouncing by Northampton. Someone even suggested that he might be ready for the knackers' yard. This week, when they convene, they will no doubt name a prize bull after him, for Tuigamala was back to his imperious best against Richmond, a player who, in tandem with Rob Andrew, proved to be a man for the occasion and the reason why Newcastle will be at Twickenham on May 15.

Tuigamala scored two tries and repeatedly cut Richmond to the bone. They might have

known that he was coming, either off his wing or from the centre, after the injury to Jonny Wilkinson forced a reshuffle, but they could not always stop him.

The tries apart, one moment in the 65th minute epitomised his afternoon. Earl Va'a chipped over the Newcastle's midfield in an attempt to break the stranglehold, only for Tuigamala to turn, dive backwards, catch and pass the ball away to Gary Armstrong in virtually one movement.

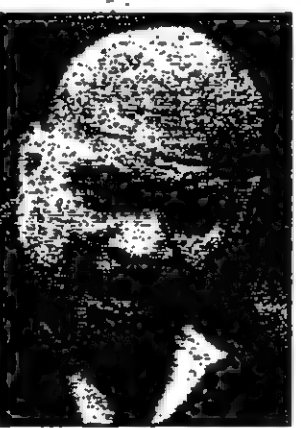
For the new regime at Newcastle, who have injected £3 million into the club, reaching the cup final has produced an instant dividend. During the uncertain weeks after Sir John Hall departed, it was pledges of loyalty from people such as Tuigamala that calmed the situation and presented a united front that did much to persuade potential backers that Newcastle were a

cause worth fighting for. He was not alone in believing that reaching the final of the Tetley's Bitter Cup could be a defining moment for the club.

"This will have a big impact on the city because rugby is still very much a new game. No doubt they will come down in their bus-loads for the final. There is a real passion in the North East for any sporting success," Tuigamala, whose copybook was blotted when he was sent to the sin-bin late on, said.

While Tuigamala roamed at will, it was Rob Andrew at fly half who twisted and turned Richmond, and the performance of the Newcastle forwards that allowed him to do so. John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby, admitted that he thought his side could "get at" Andrew when Wilkinson retired after a clash of heads with Nick Walne, but not a bit of it. It simply in-

spired the 36-year-old, who dropped a goal and kicked a penalty and conversion. Close your eyes and you could imagine him playing for England five or six years ago. Time and again, he would receive the ball, think, check and then, off



Tuigamala: great power overwhelmed Richmond

either left or right foot, kick the ball into the corners. With Richmond insecure on their own lineout ball, the tactic worked admirably.

"From a club point of view and the new owners it was massively important to win," Andrew said. "For me personally, it was important to go back to Twickenham, to take the club to a cup final."

After their own travails, it was difficult not to feel some sympathy for Richmond, but on the day they simply froze, or at least their threequarters did. They were stolid in midfield, lay too deep and showed neither sparkle or wit. Their handling was desperate. It did not help that Va'a, their playmaker, had a dismal match.

As an attacking entity, Richmond were non-existent. When they failed to take advantage of a rare period of pressure before half-time, you

know it was not to be their day. Richmond looked to out-muscle the Newcastle pack, from which Maris Hunter was missing, with a succession of scrums on their line, but they drew a complete blank. It was a crucial moment.

Kingston was nonplussed to explain the abject showing. "It was such a big occasion, and we got it wrong. We just didn't play," he said. "But there are seven games to go. Let's see if we really are men."

SCORES: Richmond: Penalty goal: Va'a (65min). Newcastle Falcons: Tries: Tuigamala 2 (23, 58). Conversion: Wilkinson 2 (23, 58). Dropped goal: Andrew (33). Penalty goal: Andrew (53). SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond lead): 0-7, 0-10, (half-time), 5-10, 9-13, 3-20. RICHMOND: M. Pfa, N. Walne, J. Wright, M. Dixon, S. Brown, E. Va'a, A. Pritchard, J. McFarland, B. Williams, D. Cunningham, A. Sheridan (captain), C. Cusack, 53, C. Gillies, C. Cusack, R. Hutton (captain), J. Barkord (8), B. Clarke. NEWCASTLE FALCONS: S. Legg, T. Underwood, M. Shaw, J. Wilkinson, V. Tuigamala (captain), 72-80, R. Andrew, G. Armstrong, G. Graham, R. Newton, I. Peel (captain), S. Best (5), G. Archer, G. Weir, P. Walker, R. Arnold, R. Beattie (captain), H. Wynn (21-22). Referee: E. Macdonald (Bristol).

Adversity brings out Sale's best

Sale30
London Irish27

By A CORRESPONDENT

"NEVER say die" seems to be Sale's new motto. In their past three Allied Dunbar Premiership matches, they have claimed seven league points, despite facing daunting double-figure deficits, with the latest display of resilience, on Saturday at Heywood Road, coming against third-placed London Irish.

It took a dropped goal in injury time from near the halfway line by Shane Howarth to seal the victory, but Dick

Best, the Exiles' director of rugby, acknowledged that Sale are a far more accomplished side than their league position indicated. Their backs bridged the gulf between the sides with polished ease, yet it was a committed defensive effort in the second half that decided the outcome.

Down 0-10, Sale looked in a sorry state, but, encouraged by the openness of the proceedings, they countered with tries from Kevin Ellis and Howarth. At half-time, impressive as they looked, the Irish advantage was a mere four points.

With Sale deploying their defence more wisely after the break, the Irish offensive was contained. Thirteen minutes into the half, Phil Greening finished off a sleek

passing move with a try and, although Jarrod Cunningham countered a third Howarth conversion with a penalty goal, the Wales full back had the final say.

SCORES: Sale: Tries: Ellis (10min), Howarth (15), Cunningham (53). Conversion: Howarth 2. Penalty goal: Howarth 2 (21, 34). Dropped goal: Howarth (51). London Irish: Tries: Harvey (8), Gallagher (24), O'Shea (40). Conversion: Cunningham 3. Penalty goal: Cunningham 2 (4, 53).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale lead): 0-3, 0-10, 7-10, 14-10, 17-10, 17-17, 20-17, 20-24 (half-time), 27-24, 27-27, 30-27. SALE: J. Macdonald, M. Moore, J. Best, D. C. Yates, (captain), B. J. Mather, G. Green, S. Harvey, S. Howarth, K. Ellis (captain), R. Smith, 40, D. Bell (captain), P. Winstanley, 70, P. Greening, D. Thomas, S. Rawlins, C. Murphy (captain), D. Baldwin, 59, P. Angleson, A. Sanderson, D. O. Arnesen (captain), A. Harris, D. LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, J. Bishop, N. Burrows, B. Venturi, (captain), R. Todd, 9-19, J. Cunningham, S. Baldwin, K. Puck, (captain), K. Campbell, 40, M. Worsley (captain), N. Hickey, 53, M. Howarth, R. Kille, 40, R. Hardwick (captain), K. Fudman, 67, R. Sturtwick, M. Harvey, J. Dow, R. Gallagher, I. Fennell. Referee: C. Price (London).

Woodward's worries

JEREMY GUSCOTT and Jonathan Wilkinson, England's two centres, caused Clive Woodward palpitations at the weekend as the England coach ponders his line-up for the final Five Nations Championship match, against Wales at Wembley this Sunday.

For the second week running, Guscott withdrew from the Bath team because of a strained hamstring, while Wilkinson left the field during Newcastle's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against

Richmond with a badly swollen eye.

Their plight, though, does not compare with that of Eric Peters, the back-row forward, who fractured a kneecap during Bath's victory over Leicester. Peters had an operation yesterday to immobilise his right leg and will miss the Scotland international with France in Paris on Saturday and the Scots' summer tour to South Africa. He is unlikely to resume playing rugby until August, putting back preparations for the World Cup.

Bath find accent on youth pays dividends

Bath24
Leicester16

By DAVID HANDS

YOUTH, they say, is far too good to be wasted on the young, yet it is the vibrant new generation at Bath that has played so crucial a role in digging them out of their midwinter doldrums and, on Saturday at the Recreation Ground, inflicting on Leicester, run-away leaders of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, only their fourth defeat of the season.

Underpinning all, of course, is the experience of Victor Uboogu, Dave Hilton, the sadly-injured Eric Peters and Mike Catt, but injuries have forced Bath to give youth its fling. Iain Balshaw, 20 this month, has been there all season, but he has been joined by Steve Borthwick, 19, Gareth Cooper, 19, and Mike Tindall, 20, all anxious to carve a swath through the new professional era.

Twice Tindall, benefiting from the unselfish play of Kevin Maggs, wrenched open the tightest defence in the first division and the result was a try for Balshaw and a penalty for Catt that effectively brought to an end Leicester's run of ten successive Premiership wins.

Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, remains convinced that Leicester will win the Premier-

Results and tables41

ship, but he can see Europe more clearly on the horizon with his club in third place and two games in hand on London Irish, just behind them.

Leicester remain eight points clear of Northampton, but they are playing tired rugby. It is as well for them that the cavalry are on the horizon. Once their England players have negotiated the final Five Nations Championship hurdle next Sunday, they can concentrate on club business knowing that Joel Stranksy and Austin Healey, their first-choice half backs, should be back from injury and suspension respectively, along with Leon Lloyd and Jon Stuart.

For an hour on Saturday, you would not have guessed that these were two of the most successful clubs in England. Basic errors abounded, alongside an element of nastiness that cost Martin Corry a finger-wagging and Neil Back a spell in the sin-bin for punching.

The first try broke a 9-9 stalemate. Peters took the catch from a lineout and flipped it back to Hilton, his prop, who charged, and Leicester conceded a penalty try for collapsing the Maul. The Leicester restart went into touch and although they did enough to unsettle the subsequent scrum, an errant boot kicked the ball to Maggs, who created space for Tindall. The centre arced through the defence and drew Tim Stimpson before serving Balshaw with a clear run to the line.

Catt's fourth penalty goal gave Bath a 15-point cushion and spurred Leicester into frantic efforts to retrieve something from the wreckage.

SCORES: Bath: Tries: Penalty by (59min), Balshaw (68). Conversion: Catt. Penalty goal: Catt 4 (8, 22, 35, 78). Leicester: Try: Penalty by (81). Conversion: Howard. Penalty goal: Stimpson 3 (15, 22, 59).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath lead): 3-0, 3-3, 3-6, 6-6, 9-6 (half-time), 9-9, 16-9, 21-9, 24-9, 24-18.

BATH: M. Penty, I. Balshaw, M. Tindall, K. Maggs, A. Robinson, M. Catt, G. Cooper, D. Hilton, M. Regan, V. Uboogu (captain), K. Yates, (captain), M. Hall, S. Borthwick, R. Eames, E. Peters (captain), R. Ryan, 73, D. Lyle.

LEICESTER: T. Stimpson, N. Easlake (captain), J. Fennell, 79, C. Johns, P. Howard, D. Loughhead, G. Murphy, J. Hamilton, G. Rowntree (captain), D. Jelley, 68, R. Cochrane (captain), O. West, 68, D. Garforth, M. Johnson, F. van Harden, I. Moody (captain), P. Gussard, 71, N. Back (captain), 10-20, M. Corry (captain), W. Johnson, 71.

Referee: A. Rowden (Berkshire)

SEPTEMBER
Climax to National League
Sky Sports 1 and 3

OCTOBER
International cricket news
Sky Sports News

NOVEMBER
South Africa v England
1st Test
Sky Sports 2

DECEMBER
South Africa v England
2nd and 3rd Tests
Sky Sports 2

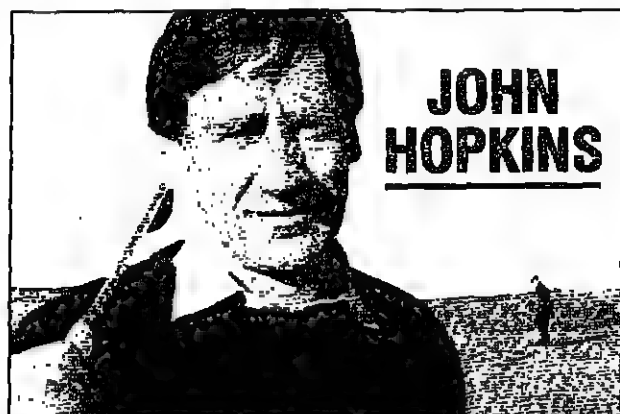
JANUARY
South Africa v England
4th and 5th Tests
Sky Sports 2

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MONDAY MATTERS

'It might sound stupid, but I've always found the rough isn't so bad in the middle of fairways'

Duval's line on life makes easy reading



JOHN HOPKINS

Consider the world of David Duval as he wakes up this morning amid the dogwood and azaleas of Augusta, Georgia. It is the second week of April and, in golfing terms, that means only one thing. Unfurl the parasols on the lawn behind the Augusta National clubhouse and bring on the peach cobbler and mint juleps. It is time for the Masters.

Augusta is a small town 100 miles east of Atlanta, known for once having had the largest cotton exchange in the southern states. The Partridge Inn on Walton Way is the oldest hotel in the South of the United States and the *Augusta Chronicle* the oldest newspaper. William Makepeace Thackeray passed through it on a lecture tour and was paid 100 guineas — a plump sum from a plump city, he noted.

For 51 weeks of the year, Augusta goes about its business without impinging much upon the consciousness of the rest of the world. In the 52nd week, the eyes of the world are on Augusta National Golf Club and this year, particularly, on Duval. 27, the young man

who once could not win a tournament and who now cannot lose one. He went for 92 events before he won his first (including seven times coming second), but before the BellSouth Classic that ended in Atlanta last night, he had beaten his opponents in ten of the past 33 that he had entered. In one event that he won, his final round was a 59, arguably the greatest competitive round ever.

Many of today's golfing heroes have echoes of their forefathers. With Duval, it is Ben Hogan, who had a stare that was just as impassive and who was the last man before Duval to win his first three victories in consecutive appearances. This is not the only connection. When Hogan was 9, his father, Chester, sick with financial worries, put a gun to his head and shot himself. Tragedy visited the Duval household when David was 9 and bone marrow was extracted from what he was in an unsuccessful attempt to save the life of Brent, his 12-year-old brother, who had aplastic anaemia.

Hogan was a voracious reader, Duval is a voracious reader, whose favourite novel is *Ayn*



Eagle eye: Duval, the No 1 golfer in the world, stares out from beneath his trademark black cap during an incredible run of success in the build-up to the Masters

Rand's *The Fountain-head*, the story of a young architect who rails against conventional standards. Duval once set himself the task of reading 30 books in one year and managed 31. The week after his 59, while skiing in Idaho, he took a house guest into a room and pointed out the 20 volumes of the *Oxford English Dictionary* given to him as a present by his girlfriend. Duval, whose 59 had taken five hours, marvelled that these dictionaries had taken three quarters of a century to compile. "People are making a big deal out of what I've done, but it's nothing compared to this," he said, holding out one of four volumes containing words beginning with the letter S. "This took ten years."

A young man full of spikiness was how Duval had appeared to

me when I first came across him at the 1992 US Open at Pebble Beach. He walked with a cocky swagger, as though he was rather pleased with himself, which, I gathered later, he was. He was pear-shaped, weighing nearly 50lb more than he does now, and had short, fair hair.

He took a distinctive and somewhat unconventional grip of his club, with both his hands rotated well to the right. That was the first stylistic solecism, I noted. The second came during the downswing, when his head swivelled towards the target.

Recently, trying to explain how he was in those days, Duval said: "What is, is. My brother died, my parents divorced ... blah, blah,

blah. There is nothing I can do about it. Maybe my mechanism has not been to analyse it because it would only hinder me from going on. The bottom line is, I don't believe you are given more than you can handle and you have to find a way to cope. You can level your own playing field by understanding that life only becomes fair when you realise it is unfair. I do not wonder about, or want to share, the way I am. I am not saying my way is right. It might turn off a lot of people, but it's the way I found that suits me."

In past weeks, Duval has demonstrated what Tom Watson once noted, namely that winning breeds charisma. Duval oozed charisma long before he had that 59. He created charisma by his story face, his obduracy, by the black cap and

sunglasses, by his remarkable run of success. Now he is making a conscious effort to relate more to people who are generating such feelings of warmth towards him and he actually made rather a good joke in the aftermath of his victory in the Players Championship on Sunday last week. "It might sound stupid, but I have always found the rough isn't so bad in the middle of the fairways," he said.

At Atlanta, three days later, he had loosened up even more. "Sure I am more comfortable than two years ago. I have been playing for five years now and I am getting used to seeing the people who travel the tour and once you get familiar with the people at each spot, it gets easier to interact. I think I have done a very good job since I have been a pro, watching my

time, making sure I did not overextend myself, investing my earnings, saving money, looking down the road. It hasn't changed much in the past two years I have been doing well. I don't see why it will in the future."

The plaudits are ringing out for Duval in a way that once he would not have thought was possible, but he is no more likely to be swayed by it all than Hogan was. Designing his own line of golf clothing? Hardly. Designing golf courses? Possibly, but daily fee courses, not as he put it, "places you have to come up with \$75,000 to join."

"My main agenda is to leave the world a better place than it was when I came in. I want to be a good role model, conducting myself as a professional, to act as a gentleman when I play."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

OKbridge is a service on the Internet which provides a facility to play live bridge with other players from anywhere in the world. Today's deal was played at 60 tables within the space of about 20 minutes.

Dealer West	Game all	Pairs
♠ 10764 ♥ J9 ♦ A8763 ♣ 8	♠ K ♥ A Q 8 5 3 2 ♦ K 9 ♣ A K 6	♠ Q 8 3 2 ♥ K 4 ♦ Q 10 4 2 ♣ Q 3
♠ A J 5 ♥ 10 7 ♦ 8 ♣ J 10 9 7 5 4 2		

W	N	E	S
2D	Double	3D	5C
Pass	6C	All Pass	

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: four of spades.

As is popular in tournament bridge, West's Two Diamonds was a Weak Two, showing a six-card suit and 6-10 high-card points. North felt that her hand was too strong for an immediate overcall and so started off with a double, intending to bid hearts at her next turn. The final contract was a good spot and odds on to succeed. Assuming that the ace of diamond is with West and that you have no trump loser, can you see a line that can succeed when the king of hearts is poorly placed?

Did you win the first trick in dummy? If so, think of another trick.

The best line is to overtake the king of spades with the ace and play a diamond towards dummy's king. Assuming West takes his ace and plays another spade to force the dummy (best), ruff

this and play the king of diamonds shedding a heart. Now play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart with the jack (if the king of hearts has dropped under the ace you can afford to cash one trump first). If hearts are 2-2, draw trumps and cash the hearts. If hearts are 3-1, and no one has ruffed with the queen of clubs, cross back to dummy with a trump, ruff the hearts good, draw the last trump, and cash the hearts. You make on the lay-out above, and also when hearts are 3-1 but the hand with the singleton does not have the queen of trumps.

When the deal actually occurred the slam was doomed to failure because East had all four outstanding hearts.

For more information on OKbridge, visit their website: www.okbridge.com.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PEDALFER
a. A pedal boat
b. Soil
c. A tree with cones

RINCEAU
a. A verse form
b. A scroliet
c. A scroll

SALSA
a. Sauce
b. Salt
c. The peak of a minaret

OORIAL
a. A sheep
b. On the ceiling
c. A silk/cotton material

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Veterans clash

Two great players who originally came from St Petersburg, but subsequently emigrated, have contested a ten-game speed chess match in their home city. Boris Spassky, the former world champion, was defeated by Viktor Korchnoi, the two-times world championship challenger. Korchnoi now represents Switzerland while Spassky represents France. Korchnoi won games two, three, six and eight; Spassky won games one and four, while the remaining games were drawn.

White: Boris Spassky

Black: Viktor Korchnoi

St Petersburg 1999

French Defence

1 e4	e5
2 e4	e5
3 e5	e5
4 c3	Nc6
5 Nf3	Qb6
6 a3	b5
7 Bb3	Bd7
8 Bc2	b5
9 0-0	Nh6
10 b3	Be7
11 Ra2	cxd4
12 cxd4	Rc6
13 Bb6	Rb6
14 Qc2	Rh8
15 b4	Kf8
16 Qa4	Kg8
17 Nbd2	g5
18 Rd1	Kg7
19 Nf1	Ne7
20 Ng5	Be8
21 Rd3	Nb5
22 Bc1	Rc3
23 Rd2	Qc7
24 a4	Rxd3
25 Rd3	Nc3
26 Ng3	Ne1
27 Re1	Qe6
28 Rd3	Qc7
29 Rf3	Bd8
30 Ne2	Qe7

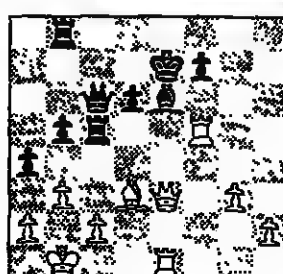
Black resigns

A tournament on the knockout format is underway in Southend. The action can be followed on www.chess.redbus.co.uk

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Koenig - Bakker, Parsippany 1999. White has a powerful concentration of force on the e- and f-files. How did he make the most of this?



Solution on page 44

Scouse wit whose bad taste ruins his efforts to amuse

I cannot be long before Tony Blair breaks off from the war with Serbia to pronounce on an equally pressing matter of state. "If he did indeed snort in the way that he is said to have snorted then, yes, he has to go," the Prime Minister will pronounce and Robbie Fowler will be led off to a life of shame.

You may laugh, but no football matter is too insignificant for the politicians these days, so the Liverpool and England striker had best prepare himself for the worst. Sick, repulsive and despicable were just some of the descriptions of his goal celebrations yesterday — and that was even before the Minister for Sport had been allowed his say.

This is not to defend the 23-year-old, who, having invited Graeme Le Saux to thrust something up his backside and then pretended to shovel cocaine up his nose, must now find something to fill the space between his ears. He should have known better and his timing could not have been worse, with a trip to the Football Association pending on Friday over his taunting of Le Saux. He cannot expect a sympathetic hearing and he does not deserve one.

But call him stupid, ban him for a few games if you must, but spare us, please, from all the moral indignation over his idiotic stunt. "Fowler never thought about the kids or the wretched screams of tortured souls hooked on drugs," one newspaper served up yesterday, ensuring more wretched screams from its tortured readers. Not even Fowler would be daft enough to endorser cocaine, although some pop groups manage to get away with it without being banned from the airwaves.



Matt Dickinson says Robbie Fowler might benefit from a change of scene

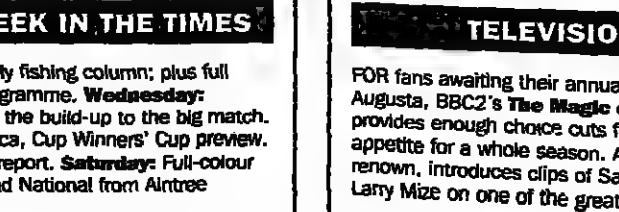
So why on earth did Fowler do it? To get up the noses, so to speak, of Everton fans is the obvious answer, after they had voiced the long-running and unfounded rumours about his drug-taking. "It got to the point where people were shouting 'druggie' and 'snackhead' at me," Fowler explained earlier this season and he hoped, in his usual misguided manner, to prove himself untouched.

A deeper explanation — and forgive any attempt at amateur psychology — is that Fowler was once again proving rather eager to please. Not the nation, of course, who will now moralise about his antics more than they fret over the bombing of Serbia, but the pocket of Merseyside mates who have been his friends since youth and to whom he remains remarkably loyal. Far from shunning him, they will be slapping him on the back. "Nice one, Robbie," they will be saying, just as they did when he wore a T-shirt in support of the sacked Liverpool dockers and as they did when he wagged his bum at Le Saux.

And that, perhaps, is Fowler's problem — the world does not appear to exist beyond the Mersey tunnel he sometimes comes across as though he would be happy playing against Everton every week. While Steve McNamara, his great friend, has decided to seek out the wider world in Madrid next season, Fowler has just signed a new five-year deal to stay in Liverpool.

His loyalty to his home

RUSSELL BOWEN



Fowler makes the unseemly gesture at Le Saux for which he must answer to the FA at a hearing later this week

town, aided by at least £30,000 a week, is to be admired, but increasingly, he may regret it. Alex Ferguson wanted to take him to Old Trafford last year and Arsene Wenger would happily have broken Arsenal's transfer record to lure him to London this summer. Fowler knew of the interest from High-bury but he opted to stay at Anfield and it is not only his football that may suffer.

A move, even to Manchester, would have opened his mind a little and shown him that the Scouse humour does not always travel well. He may have learnt, without the need for the FA punishment that is inevitable this week, that there is a stage when homophobic mick-taking becomes a little more sinister. He may have learnt the difference between "a joke", as he described his goal celebration on Saturday, and a brainless stunt.

But without the chance to move away, one wonders where he will learn his lesson. Not from Gerard Houllier, it would appear, who looked distinctly dumb on Saturday night as he attempted to laugh off Fowler's antics as "eating grass". The Frenchman cannot really expect us to believe that he is that naive.

He should punish Fowler quickly in the vain hope that the FA will be more lenient and perhaps then it would bring a swifter end to an entirely regrettable incident.

Otherwise, the rest of us will have to batten down the hatches and get out the sandbags because a tidal wave of moral indignation is heading our way. Fowler deserves to have the book thrown at him just for that.

THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

Tomorrow: Brian Clarke's monthly fishing column; plus full reports on the Easter football programme. Wednesday: Manchester United v Juventus — the build-up to the big match. Thursday: Chelsea v Real Mallorca, Cup Winners' Cup preview. Friday: The Masters — first day report. Saturday: Full-colour guide and expert tips on the Grand National from Antree

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHT

FOR fans awaiting their annual fix of golf and greenery from Augusta, BBC2's *The Magic of the Masters* (today, 7pm) provides enough choice cuts from previous years to whet the appetite for a whole season. Alan Hansen, of footballing renown, introduces clips of Sarazan, Faldo and Nicklaus, plus Larry Mize on one of the great winning shots of all time.

LYNNE TRUSS



I must be worse for Tim Henman himself; that's the only consolation. Being told continually to "Come on" by unimaginative fans must be the most aggravating thing in the world. He leaves the house in the morning and is spotted by a child on a bike. "Come on Tim" the child lisps. He walks to the paper shop and is seen by people on a passing bus. "Come on Tim" they yell, through the windows. He purchases a pint of milk. "Come on Tim!" quips the woman at the till, as he sorts through his change. When he and his girlfriend, Lucy, are late for a party because he is drying his hair, she must be under strict instruction to say only: "Nearly ready, then?" and "Tell you what, I'll start the car!" The day she forgets and orders him to "Come on," I fear the relationship will be very swiftly at an end.

One would hate for tennis fans to start singing about walking in a Henman Wonderland (or indeed, about tennis coming home), but this over-eager croquet-club chorus of "Come on Tim" has just got to stop before it drives everybody insane. Surely there are other ways of encouraging a person, stiffening their sinews, egging them on, showing them you care? I mean, what about "Go on, Tim", just for a change? Or even "Tim, Tim, pick up thy muscles!" Don't people realise that it sounds rather desperate, anyway, to keep saying "Come on Tim"? It implies Tim is dragging his size eleven. It implies he doesn't appreciate the seriousness of the situation, or doesn't care. How very annoying it must be to be told to "Come on", in any case, when you are clearly coming on as fast as you possibly can.

Henman does not grin and bear this torrent of goodwill; he maintains a sullen concentration and rarely acknowledges the crowd, even when the yelling reaches the sort of unprecedented pitch heard this weekend at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, between every single point played. Doesn't he get headaches? I know I did. The damn lighting was bad enough. Add to that the constant smell of food when you can't bear to leave your seat and the ever-present danger that Cliff will entertain you. But the worst thing is the noise. Not because I'm a killjoy (really), but because it hitches so drastically between utter silence and thunderous claxon-and-rattle din — alternating the two conditions approximately every 20 seconds for hour after hour — that in the end you just can't stand it.

As the weekend wore on, of

course, the crowd grew ever louder. This cup-tie will be famous for the volume of noise, if for nothing else, but the effect was odd. People blew whistles, as if at a Brazilian football match; they waved flags and hammered their heels on the floor. And in the end, the drama of the event certainly merited such a reaction, but somehow (how can I put this?) tennis still deserved something more refined.

Perhaps the problem is that tennis fans yell regardless of whether their chap is up or down; tiresomely, they exhort him either way. Also, because their celebratory noises have to be kick-started from silence every time, they seem about as spontaneous as a Robbie Fowler goal celebration stunt. I'm sure our brave tennis boys are not a bit ungrateful for the phenomenal, historic support they received, but, by the end of it, I'm sure they'd have worn ear-plugs if the rules had allowed.

Perhaps I'm just trying to explain why this Davis Cup-tie against the United States was actually almost unbearable to watch. Witnessing history unfold is a privilege that should never be understated, but if you also develop ulcers and earache in the process it's only honest to admit it. So actually, speaking frankly, the Davis Cup was pure torture, wasn't it? It

was no fun at all. So much at stake; so much to prove; the best chance of winning such a match in all our lifetimes.

It was not relaxing, nor could it be. And "Come on" just came nowhere near the feelings for Tim and Greg yanking your heart around in its ghastly tour of the chest cavity for three days' solid watching.

and I wasn't going to try not to care any more — at which point, he heroically won the fourth-set tie-break, defending four match points in the process. Blimey. Such courage. Such resilience. Such a macho gesture, moreover, involving fist and snarl. "Come on Tim" I blurted at last, and then kicked myself for it. (Damn.)

An odd change overtook the Great Britain bench overnight, incidentally, between Friday and Saturday. On Friday, the American support were alone in jumping up and applauding their chap, the Brits instead adopting the hunched posture of defeat that comes so naturally to us. The difference between the two teams was marked. Red-shirted Americans were forever leaping to their feet, saluting each other with high fives and even grabbing neighbours around the hips, as if tennis were

ice hockey or something teamy and locker-roomy and contact-sporty like that. Meanwhile, the reserved Brits gave the impression that they didn't know where to look.

Yet by Saturday, all this had changed. Greg and Tim had evidently practised high fives all night until they got them right ("Right hand? Right. Like this? Harder? No, you first. Oh, I see"), and David Lloyd had orchestrated his men to leap to their feet and clap as if spontaneously moved to do so. Perhaps they rang Kevin Keegan and asked for the name of his mysterious motivational chap. Or perhaps they got Kevin Keegan. Either way, it was the fastest known case of chaps progressing from "Sorry, I'm afraid I have a touch taboo" to "Hey, I really love you, man" that has ever occurred in full view of an adoring crowd who just wanted everyone to Come on.

Masterful recollection of golf's golden moments

If your heart lifts at the sight of an impossible chip, a miraculous putt or Seve Ballesteros in hipster flares with a white belt, then Alan Hansen's *Magic of the Masters* will make pretty absorbing viewing tonight on BBC2. Personally, I have watched it twice and may watch it again.

Golfers bathed in golden light recollect the day they made "birdie, birdie" or struck "the sweetest putt of my life". Balls tumbled in perfect arcs over emerald velvet to drop with exquisite precision in the hole. Galleries leap and cheer in terrible clothes. Men drop to their knees and cry. And meanwhile, for those who love a novelty, Nick Faldo is observed to smile on two quite separate occasions.

To anyone less convinced by the glory of golf, however, there is the scandalously tasty case of the erroneous scorecard, which, in its absurdity, will confirm everything they ever disliked about the game.

This doubtless legendary incident occurred after the final round in 1968, when Roberto De Vicenzo, of Argentina, signed a scorecard filled in incorrectly and found that he had thereby not forced a play-off (as he thought,

but had instead lost. Common sense would call for the Tippex, of course, but alas, common sense's opinion was not solicited. "Rules are rules," Augusta said.

De Vicenzo had signed for a four on the 17th when, in front of millions of people, he had shot a three. If he must return to Buenos Aires with a flea in his ear, he had only himself to blame.

Are there any golfers who don't remember how they approached the 16th on the Saturday in 1962? Obviously, it would make inferior telly if they recollected with certainty only the colour of their umbrellas and the mashed potato afterwards, but after a while it seems slightly spooky that they can recall every shot in illuminating detail.

"It was a downhill lie, the wind had changed direction, I was two shots behind and there was a woman in a lemon scarf," they say of a moment 35 years ago, picking it from a lifetime's career. "I decided that fortune favours the brave, so I selected my two-iron." One starts to wonder (mischievous thought) that perhaps they watch old videos of themselves in the evenings.

Still, at least they feel flattered to be asked and are polite enough to reply. Imagine Alan Shearer as

a top golfer, bathed in golden etc. "Talk us through that momentous round," the interviewer urges, with an encouraging smile. Shearer sticks out his bottom lip while his little eyes assume a challenging expression. "You tell me," he says. "That's your job, that's not my job. You tell me about that momentous round if you're so keen to talk about it."

The *Magic of the Masters* does clear up a few things I'd been wondering about. What happens at the apostolic jacket ceremony if last year's winner wins it again? Answer: he just puts the jacket on. (fair enough.)

What happens if you are colour-blind and can't figure out the cunningly colour-coded scoreboard? Answer: you ask your caddy: "How many of those ones are red?" And he replies: "Just yours, boss."

It is a shame they don't show the 1968 Butler Cabin ceremony, when Tiger Woods held the jacket for Mark O'Meara so high that the poor chap couldn't get his arm in. I have been enjoying telling that story. Instead, they show him getting it right outdoors and now nobody will believe me that I ever saw anything else.



Henman's parents, bottom left, lead the applause for yesterday's four-set win over Martin

Toby's boat race a televisual treat

Interesting that Woody Allen should have described the satiric point of his new film *Celebrity* the night before the Boat Race, which in a single television sitting transformed Toby Wallace (a humble Cambridge rower, who sits at the back) into someone you'd be glad to see with his own breakfast show. At midday on Saturday I'd never heard of him, but by four o'clock I was wondering whether he ought to get together with Trude from *Vets in Practice*.

And I have to admit it spiced up the race — almost managing to disguise the utter lack of suspense generated each and every year by one crew pulling ahead initially and then inexorably in-

creasing their lead. As a calendar event, the Boat Race compels attention and I attended it every year when I lived in Putney, even purchasing a larky commemorative Boat Race cake from a local bakery. But I grew wary of it, especially after the tenth year of getting wet and not having a clue who won, and the cake being a crushing disappointment.

So good luck to the Toby initiative, which will open up and personalise the Boat Race for self-excluded oiks like me, whose schools had neither wet bobs nor dry bobs (or, indeed, any bobs at all). Perhaps after university Toby could get a job at the airport or in a ski lodge, so that he can stay on telly. The only problem with his celebrity CV is that he rows

a bit. But I suppose he could drop that, if his agent thought it best.

METAPHORS continue to slip the cuffs in the world of sport. It was ever thus, of course, but that's no reason not to be delighted by the image conjured by the Cambridge rowing coach on Saturday to the effect that his crew's butterfly had to be kept on the boil so that they didn't peak too soon. An ex-Arsenal player, asked how he coped with the expectations the Arsenal "mantle" confers, agreed that the mantle was a problem, since it did pursue him. Expect nightmares featuring a stew of Lepidoptera and a sleeveless cloak swooping over stadiums in avenging fashion.

Shame about the fizz fiasco

These were some of the most shocking pictures ever broadcast. I can see that I am going to have to construct a new world view after watching them. All my most cherished beliefs are in tatters.

It happened shortly after the 145th occasion of what the beak who tried Bertie Wooster called "the annual aquatic contest between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge" (Bertie was fined £5 for his part in the pinching of a policeman's helmet).

The winning Cambridge crew were presented with what I guessed was a jereboam of champagne — and over the course of five of the most excruciating minutes ever seen on television, failed to open it. I thought that opening bottle of champagne was something that students at the older universities did more or less on a daily basis.

But no. We had a putting and twisting and a bit of half-hearted Formula One shaking as well and nothing would budge the bloody cork. Big boys, not lacking in physical strength, as the previous 16½ minutes had shown — but not one had the man-of-the-worldliness required to get at the contents of a bottle of champagne.

It went on and on, for impossible lengths of time, while we at home watched and made would-be helpful gestures, making in dumb-show that oh-so-easy twist of the right



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

hand, aided by a fair white napkin for extra grip.

In the end — shattering any remaining confidence I had in the present generation of students — they gave up. A student who gets halfway through opening a bottle of champagne lives a life I cannot begin to imagine.

I was reminded of the headline that accompanied another famous literary visit before the beak: Sebastian, in *Brideshead Revisited*: "Marquis's son unused to wine". The entire eight looked like precisely that: marquis's sons unused to wine.

The Boat Race is one of the BBC's annually most successful exports. It is hard to see why — and by see, I mean looking at pictures. There are 16 big chaps and a couple of little people propelling splinters of wood down a not especially sumptuous stretch of the Thames. But this is one of the British or English events that is dominated by the sense of occasion. There are a good number of these. Perhaps one could come up with graded sequence of how much relevance the actual sport has to the sense of occasion in this distinctly rummy series of events.

Henley has become a strange occasion, in which the hardest and toughest of oarsmen never really know if they come there with resentment of the boozing over-dressed throng, or with delight. Royal Ascot would be the same occasion if they ran selling platters instead of the best horses in training.

The Grand National makes splendid pictures of course, but there is the same feeling that the BBC is selling not so much sport as history; and an odd feeling that it is selling the country as a kind of *Last Night of the Proms* pantomime, a Disneyland of quaint and curious folk.

Try watching Wimbledon in the United States. They promote the tournament not with pictures of Wimbledon Common and Plough Lane and the Dog and Fox but with pictures of Trooping the Colour and the Houses of Parliament.

With Wimbledon, they sell great sport with a kind of pleasingly parading garish. Wimbledon is the most sought-after of all the Grand Slam tournaments, because it mixes the action with the history, with my-how-quaintness.

It is the great Bertie Wooster Ride at Theme Park UK.

All the BBC can do, I suppose, is to play it straight and, indeed, the Boat Race is great sport, a duel in which the first blow is decisive. But the opponent does not drop dead. Instead, he bleeds to death in slow motion — precisely the course of the race of Saturday.

The coverage caught the decisive moment — the clash of blades, the sudden veering of Oxford that cost them perhaps a third of a length at the moment of psychological truth. Oddly enough, it was not made that much of by the commentators, but the pictures said it all.

And then to the finish and what is always the saddest picture. In purely sporting terms — the losing crew. Even the winners can hardly raise a smile at the end, so knacker-ing is this four-and-a-bit miles of water. For the losers, it is almost beyond bearing.

In the end, though, I did not despair entirely of student-kind. The final picture of the celebrations showed us some excellent footage of the Cambridge bow-man, T.J. Wallace, repeatedly snogging the cox, V. Sharif. We will have to go the official stats-man for the final count, but there were getting on for half-a-dozen lip-to-lip smackers. And what I thought forgivingly at the close, is champagne to the man who tastes such delights?

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NEWCASTLE

BOB WRIGHT

2.15 Fez	3.50 Catrío
2.50 Mungo Park	4.25 Fnan
3.20 Persian Fayre	5.00 Impul

GOING. GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 BEST MUSIC METRO FM NOVICE STATION
(2-Y-O: £3,048: 50) (9 runners)

1 (1)	1	CHISTO (D. S. J.) (Scholar) 11 Place 9-0
2 (4)	2	BEST MUSIC METROFM (C. Caster) 8 Eady 8-12
3 (1)	3	GRATHY POOL (Lara Mervin) 1 Sealy 8-12
4 (2)	4	MASTER FAY 5 (M. J. Hays) 4 Champion 8-12
5 (8)	5	DARTMOUTH-DEERHORN (D. O. Darby & Ryan)
6 (7)	6	BEBE DE CHAM (Lobby Bubbly) 4 Champion 1 Eye 8-12
7 (5)	7	FEZ (Earl of Burlington) 11 Attention 8-7
8 (2)	8	FOREST QUEEN (P. G. Coote) 11 Hugo 8-7
9 (2)	9	NAPLES (D. J. G. Hayes) 11 Meme 8-7

BETTING: 2-1 Garm Pool 4-1 Fez 2-1 Grathy Pool 2-1 Derbyshire 2-1

1998. PRINCIPALITY 8-12 & Darley (4-9 fav) J

FORM ANALYSIS Chile already has a win on Oscar (mold), though there will come a time to upstage it, do well to overcome his 20th period. Master Play Appearance to show under 50 in time for 2nd round in a non-seller, as favored by the Johnnie Walker crowd. The 1990s are a time to be a very strong States and Ginnick States, and to make a good start to his day, they want respect and good Paul, a St. Paul (Pain) brother.

2.50 GNER HANDICAP
(23.648, 51) (14 runners)

062233	CALUDA	ROUNDS	06.0 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand
062234	MUNDO	ROUNDS	06.0 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand
062235	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062236	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062237	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062238	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062239	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062240	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062241	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062242	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062243	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062244	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062245	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062246	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062247	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062248	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062249	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	
062250	PIGSON	10 (P.5) on Poyl at Grand	

9	(6)	0523-0	STATDYORK 193 (D.F.) (Skarburst Racing) D Sha
10	(14)	0523-0	SWEET MAGIC 68 (T.D.F.G.S.) L Lloyd-James 8
11	(8)	0406-0	MILL END QUEST 166 (D.G.) (W Allgood) M W
12	(12)	0406-0	SEALED BY FATE 8 (D.G.) (W Allgood) M W

14 (13) 211300 MILKARAK 6 (0.5) **W** (W) PARFACZ (3) WARSAW
14 (13) 02-0264 SILV COTTAGE 6 (B.D.J.) **W** (W) Walsbury (3) Walsbury
BETTING: 9-2 Suk, Totus, 7-1 Tamm, Mungo, 4-1 Gortchal, Zdzisława
Pork, Piggy, Bant, Moki, Mokaine, 12-1 others

1998 MUNDO PARK, 4-4-1 Fortune (7-2) Mrs J

FORM ANALYSIS

my Grendler Mungo Park won plus 12 months ago when trained by 13th highest mark and did not live over course and distance last finished a short-haul in front of him, ran as if the entry would put it, four-year-old, a former score at this top last time, has returned (fourth), Molokan (10th) and Seaside (13th) also ran in that order and half lengths in hand of Gortchal, who is the only one to confirm the him, Zdzisława is more interested in his first run for

Donald McCain's yard for 11,000 gns after investing fourth to Nicholas (61) last October.

3.20 JOHN BARRAS HANDICAP

(£3,778: 7f) (17 runners)

1	(U)	00030-	PERSIAN FAYRE 63J (GD.F.5) (M Grubb) J Best
4	(D)	466-50	GIFT OF GOLD 47 (D.F.5) (Classic Gold) A Bailey
12	(U)	05003-	TILER 154 (D.F.5) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnson
16	(U)	50003-	PEPPYATT 154 (D.F.5) (Cuthbertson) N Byrnes
17	(U)	21000-	PRESENT CHANCE 10 (M) J Garrod D Shaw 5-9
8	(D)	04650-	DAALWE 10 (D.F.G.5) (Mrs A Mollinson) J Glover
15	(U)	41561-	MALADERIE 15 (D.F.5) (A Watson) M Dods 5-9

8 (9) 22010- SMOKEY FROM CAPLAW 252 (C.D.F.G.) J J OT
9 (17) 626200 REDOUTABLE 10 (C.D.F.G.S.) (D Chapman) D C
10 (11) 400-24 *FREEDOM QUEST 47 (B Valentine) B Rotmwell 4

[illegible]

many hand caps at Southwell (33) and that it is to do from 17 to higher. Persian F revealed his merit when beating Refuse To Lose, who won the Hunt Cup next time last June. On that run he is arguably well in at a mark of 80 and a winner's rest.

3.50 TYNE & WEAR METRO MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,631; 1m) (6 runners)

1
2
3
4
5
6

55- RAANI REBEL (f (Maiden)) J Dooling 0-0
404-8 RAZOR 1991 (f (GB)) P Savill W Johnston
4 CATRINA 156 (f (Maiden)) J Atkinson 8-5
KORA (Mrs A Thompson) J J O'Neill 8-5
OCEAN VIEW (G Colured) W Kemp 8-5
MICCOS (G Colured) J J O'Neill 8-5
SALLY HOPPER (Miss G Jonghans) J J O'Neill 8-5

BETTING: 8-11 Royal Rebel, 4-1 Raazi, 14-1 Kora, 25-1

Royal Rebel, whose efforts

days ago when, having been sent off a warm blanket, he was flattered. Given that he will start at prohibitive odds again today he might be a bit more than Durand's charge but only one horse in his races at Ascot and he is not a term but he shaped with promise and hinted that he would not let down Cations, the only other to have seen the racecourse, showed clear sap, market, behind Noushtay, and should account for the newcomers.

(£3,599: 1m 41 93yd) (9 runners)
1 (2) ENBORNE ISJ (Triple 6 DA Racing Syndicate D

23 0- MUMF 31 (8 February) 8 February 4-3 Easy
 24 SELECT EQUIMAKE (Equimake Ltd) 4-3 Easy 4-3
 25 6006-4 THEATRY 50 (9) 9 Group 4-3 Easy 4-3
 26 DONORNAME (Ma Barker's) 5 Family 3-5 Mid
 27 0003-4 111 (Prince & Facer) 3 Jan 3-5
 28 PANCAKE WOOD (Sealand Park Ltd) 4 Johnson
 29 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5
 30 0003-4 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5
 31 0003-4 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5

BETTING: 5-2 Pearl, 3-1 Decoyers, 7-2 Pancake Wood, 8-1 Mums, 10-1 E-
 Yr, 20-1 Others.

1998: ALL MADE UP 3-8-8 M Roberts (5-4 fav)

John Dantlog has made a com-
 plete hash has double. (Pancake
 Wood) 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5
 should land his double. (Pancake
 Wood) 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5
 should land his double. (Pancake
 Wood) 111 (R. L. 111) 3-5

showed some promise until fading quickly 21 out in a Kempton market since but, after going through the sales at 11,000 gns, has returned home, from the family of Kios and Dicks, has shown good form in his

5.00 **EASY FAVOURITES MAGIC 1152 HANDICAP**
(£2,750 - 25m) (18 runners)

1 (10)	COLWAY RITZ 170 (BF,D,G,S) (R Coleman) M S
2 (11)	CELESTIAL WELCOME 154 (C,D,G,S) Mas M R
3 (1006)	SANDARAB TRELL (D,M,C,H) (Bartlett) M R
7 (1007)	

5 (14) 100000-
4 (14) 51-321 RAMBO WALTZER 5 (D.F.G.S) (W Semers) D Nic
5 (6) 00200- JACMAR 152 (F.G) (Marst. Sutherland & Hay) M
6 (11) 50000- IMPULSIVE AIR 181 (C.D.F.G.S) (T Sutherland) E V

[illegible]

FORM ANALYSIS

would head there. Even with his 6th grade Rambler Walther, looks capable. However, JBERREDD could be the one racing all the time card 310 below the gas good on fuel but his last successes on it came off a card 90 higher the he was third on King Prawn at Southwell (1m), which gives him the definition of King Prawn when third in the ladies handicapped Bonanza (1m) at Waverhampton who was in great heat second, winning her first race in three weeks and a 300 lower mark. She was then rested for three months and she is refreshed will make a bold bid. Almazhar was three-quarters of a mile par at Waverhampton since) when second to Without Friends, at Southwell pull

TRAINERS	Wins	Rvrs	%	JOCKEYS
----------	------	------	---	---------

J Dunlop	14	48	252	J Gibson
B Ellison	3	16	85	F Wessely
A Bailey	4	22	182	D Holland
M Johnson	25	153	163	R Winton
B Handbury	3	19	13.8	J Carroll
M Wane	5	32	15.6	T Williams
J Berry	17	125	13.6	A Oulhane
J Glover	3	23	13.0	P Bacey

TRAINERS	
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100	100

M Pipe	135	85	78	2	-162.47	A P McCoy
P Nicolson	88	69	27	2	+11.43	R Johnson
Mis M Bevelty	88	64	57	16	-25.94	M A Fitzgerald
P Hobbs	74	66	45	9	-19.41	N Williamson
D Nicholson	65	62	58	2	-37.03	R Durneedy
Miss V Williams	64	34	32	9	-11.61	J Tizzard
N Henderson	64	46	35	2	-5.34	A Maguire

Feathered Leader to relish test of stamina

SE FIELD

[illegible]

The new Audi A4 is somewhat different from its former self. To appreciate the subtle (but definite) improvements, please call 0345 699 777 now to arrange a test drive.



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9

0

Kevin Eason on the leading drivers lining up for the start of the British Touring Car Championship

Neal stuns rivals to capture pole

THE glory would probably be enough reward, but Matt Neal is halfway to a £250,000 prize as the first independent driver to break the stranglehold of the mega-budget manufacturer teams in the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship.

Neal stunned his opposition yesterday by smashing the circuit record at Donington Park on his way to pole position for the main feature race this afternoon. To leave former champions and track stars in his wake was remarkable enough, but Neal's achievement is to beat teams with multi-million pound budgets that he can only dream of.

To add insult to injury, Neal was driving a 1998 constructors' championship-winning Nissan Primera GT, which he bought from the factory team — which would be like buying Mika Hakkinen's old McLaren-Mercedes to race and then beating him. While Neal sits on pole, neither of the factory-backed team cars, driven by David Leslie and Laurent Aiello, managed to qualify in the top ten.

"It is a fantastic moment for me and the team," the 32-year-old, who races for Team Dynamics, said. "I thought the manufacturer teams would be bringing out the heavy artillery, but if I am going to win, then this is as good a chance as I am ever going to get and the thought of that £250,000 cheque is very nice. I just have to get away from pole and win. Sounds simple, but I am sure it will be a tough day at the races."

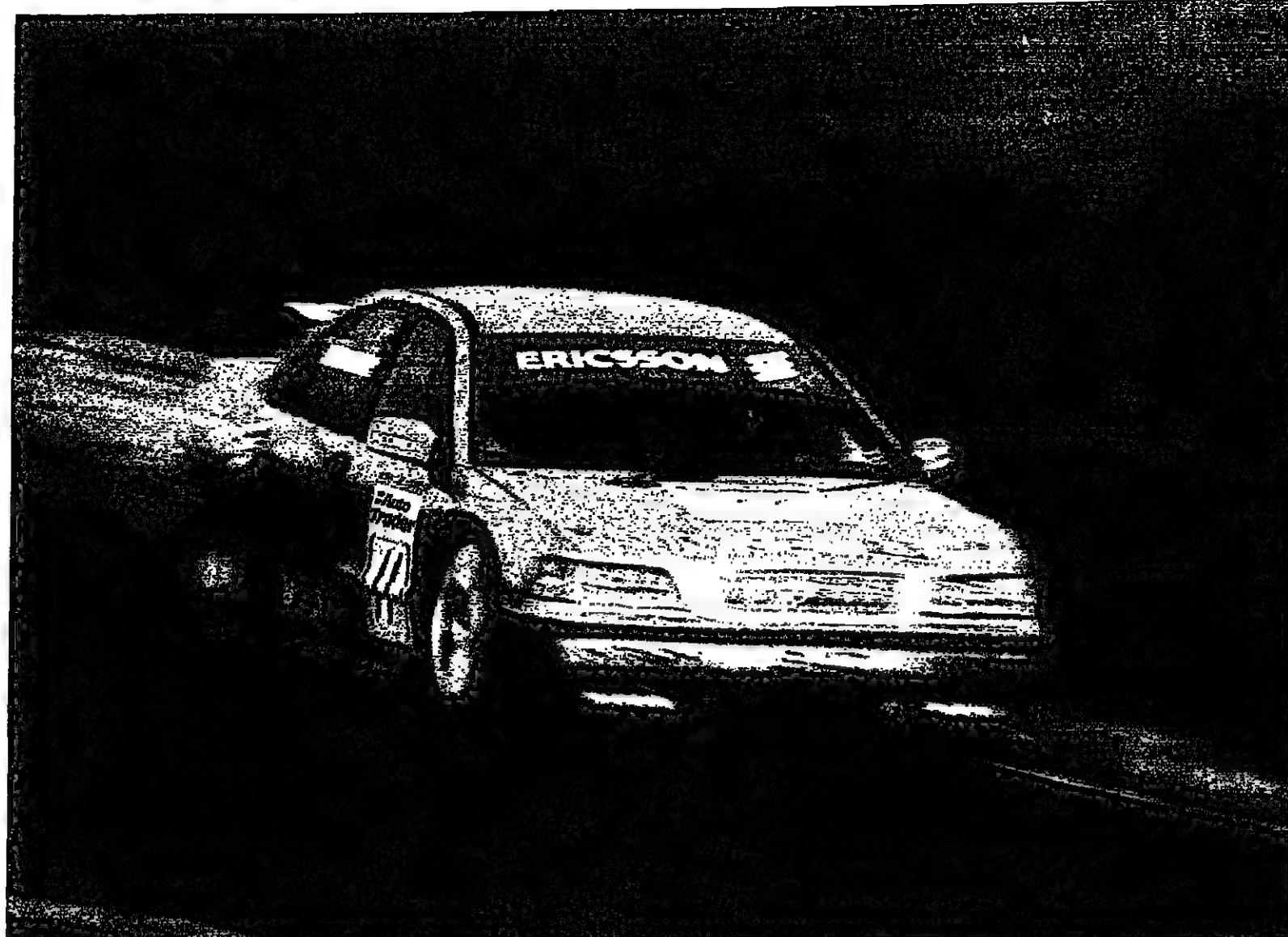
The success of the Midlander serves only to underline just how tight this series, acknowledged as

second only to Formula One in Great Britain, could be this season. Any one of half a dozen drivers is capable of winning the championship, including Neal, whose status as a rank outsider evaporated with his tyre smoke at Donington yesterday.

"This will be the closest championship for a long time because every team has a good car and drivers who can win races," Rickard Rydell, the current champion who qualified his Volvo S40 in seventh position, said. "I want to make a little bit of history by winning two titles in a row, but it is significant that recently drivers who have won the title have not had such a good year after that."

The grid is small in quantity — just six manufacturers are represented — though high on quality for the first two rounds, an 18-lap sprint followed by the 36-lap feature race. Honda has built a new Accord that could put James Thomson, the youngest man on the grid, on his way to a maiden championship. The fresh-faced Yorkshireman, at the age of 24, has seven career victories behind him already, came third in the championship last season and put himself alongside Neal on the front row for the main race today, while taking pole with second, for the sprint.

"The basic new car is not



Vincent Radermecker tests the new Volvo S40 at Silverstone, the car in which Rickard Rydell will defend his British touring car championship

only quicker than last year's but also has lots of development ahead of it," he said, "but the competition is so close you cannot really rule anyone out. Any of the manufacturers in the championship now are capable of winning and look at what Matt Neal has achieved, so it is difficult to predict. It is going to be down to pitstops and team effort as much as the drivers and cars."

"The main thing is that I must not get too hung up about winning. I want to win every race hopefully, but I have to be consistent and get points each time out, because that could be the way to the championship."

The British touring car championship has always provided spectacular wheel-to-wheel racing, no more so than at Donington last June, when Nigel Mansell almost pulled off the seemingly impossible by winning for Ford in the wet. His drive had started out as little more than a publicity coup, with Mansell being paid a reputed £500,000 by a struggling team striving to get attention in any way that it could in this ultra-competitive series.

Touring Cars takes its reputation as a testbed for new ideas a step further this season with the first night race in Great Britain. The Snetterton circuit, outside Norwich, is being equipped with floodlights on July 17 to give spectators a unique view of the sport.

This year, Ford has abandoned the frivolity of hiring an ex-Formula one star for a few demonstration drives and bought the best talent that it can find to transform its Mondeo into a winning car. Prodrive, which built world championship-winning rally

cars for Colin McRae, is making the Mondeos, in alliance with Cosworth, the Formula One engine supplier.

Alain Méné, the flamboyant 1997 champion, is partnered by his antithesis in the form of Anthony Reid, a quiet, introverted Scot, whose studied approach last season made him the highest-placed British driver. Méné and Reid lurk menacingly fourth and fifth on the grid for the main race, but Reid, second to Rydell last year, is under no illusions that the new team will have to get quickly to make an impact today.

"It might be an all-new package, but because of the organizations involved, we have been able to respond quickly to

problems. We hope we will be up at the sharp end straight away although there is still a lot of discovering to be made of the Mondeo," he said.

He agrees that predicting winners this year is fraught with difficulty. "This could be the most exciting championship on record. When people reflect on how this championship was won, they might see that the driver did not win every time, but that the car was reliable and he was always among the places."

WEBSITE: www.bttc.co.uk
TELEVISION: Donington race live on BBC2 at 12pm and 3.30pm

THE CONTENDERS

Rickard Rydell (Swe)
Age: 31
Team: Volvo S40.
Prospects: Tough job defending his championship, but Rydell is rated as the best touring car driver in the business. Depends entirely on how well his 1999 Volvo can perform.

Anthony Reid (GB)
Age: 39
Team: Ford Mondeo
Prospects: Last year's top British driver has all the equipment for winning and showed last season he is not afraid of confrontation. The new Mondeo is an unknown, though he is optimistic.

Laurent Aiello (Fr)
Age: 29
Team: Nissan Primera
Prospects: Must rate as a contender. The Primera was the fastest on the track at the end of last year and Aiello is highly rated. Put the two together and there could be victory ahead.

Alain Méné (Switz)
Age: 35
Team: Ford Mondeo
Prospects: Never rule out Méné, the 1997 champion. Swapped to Mondeo to give Ford the strongest driver line-up and experience coupled with enormous talent could still cause a stir.

James Thompson (GB)
Age: 24
Team: Honda Accord
Prospects: Young gun of touring cars who has never quite fulfilled his potential. The Accord is still developing, like Thompson, but quite capable of producing victories and podium finishes.

Matt Neal (GB)
Age: 32
Team: Team Dynamics.
Prospects: Most intriguing of the lot. On for a £250,000 prize if he is the first independent to win a race this season — and he could, given stunning test times. Look out for a surprise.

A FREE online Feng Shui consultation

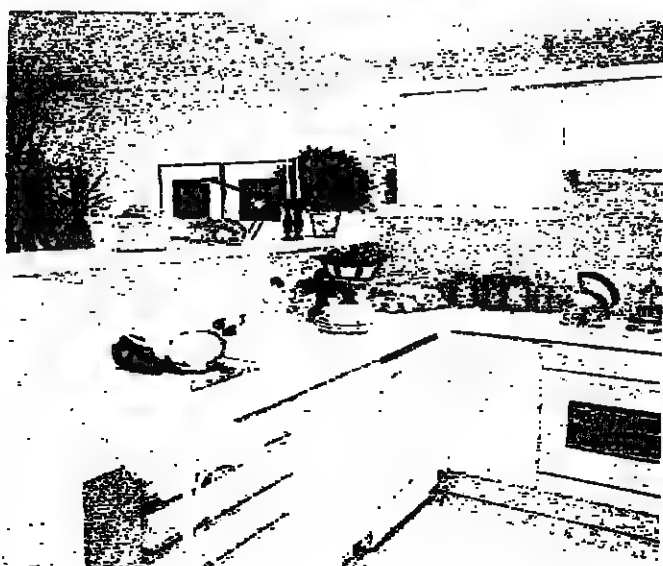


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Starting today, *The Times* offers readers a FREE online Feng Shui consultation to give a room in your home a new look. You will be given a complete Feng Shui report helping you to make the best use of your space to improve relationships, health, finances, family and career. If you re-arrange your environment according to Feng Shui principles, fans of Feng Shui claim, your life is enhanced. The offer applies to a **dining room, study or bathroom**.

Times readers can also have interior design advice online for other rooms in their home for £5.50 per room, half the usual price of £11.

When you go online you will be asked to use a compass to check the direction and position of the door and create the layout of your room. Describe what you can see out of each window and submit the room to an online Feng Shui expert for analysis. The analysis will highlight the negative and positive areas of your room and make recommendations for you to put your furniture and fittings in places where they will not suffer/create negative influences.



HOW TO APPLY

Collect four of the seven tokens published in *The Times* this week. Token 1 appeared in *The Times* Magazine on Saturday. On each token there is a two-letter code. You need four, two-letter codes to access the free consultation on the Feng Shui website: www.online-fengshui.com

When you have any four of the seven sets of two-letter codes, key them into your computer when asked and follow the instructions carefully. You will need a web browser Netscape 3 or above, Explorer 3 or above, or their equivalent. Full instructions are on the site. If you have difficulty downloading, please check you are following the instructions. If you are at work, make sure there is no firewall. Try again or contact your Internet service provider.

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Terms and Conditions: Only one free room consultation per household. Consultations for other rooms are available at half price, just £5.50 per room. Instructions for how to do this will be on the website. Offer closes at midnight Wednesday April 28, 1999.



ACROSS

- 1 Wobbles on the ice (5)
- 4 Private Brahms collection — note manuscript omitted a certain instrument (9)
- 9 Something lacking in bit of gen about swagger ruler's adopted (11)
- 15 Sculptor has two pupils with nothing to give at first (9)
- 16 Almost mention bird — it's been plucked (7)
- 17 Unlikely to scan text of this poetry in English? (4,5)
- 18 Question editor briefly expanded that one was meant to answer (4,4,13)
- 19 Allow to stay or go (5)
- 20 Signs of one about to invade subcontinent? (7)
- 22 Salvo initially left off — that's by the way (8)
- 23 Go to meet the French representative — one may shed some light (6,4)
- 26 Seeing examination I sent, or amended text? (11)
- 28 French painter's right to enter (7)
- 29 Fish left in a hat? (7)
- 30 Characters retreating from sanity can ultimately show this (6)
- 32 Honestly, it's going like a rocket (8,2)
- 34 Conductor of opera doubled popular backing (9)
- 37 Saying one should recycle (5,3,4,3)
- 39 One's soon to start at Cambridge — Jesus, perhaps? (7,4)
- 41 Type of excellent textbook (5,6)
- 42 Simple psychology practised in lexicographers' symposium? (4,11)
- 43 Misses Italian style? (9)
- 45 Regretting having a record sent in written in verse (10)
- 47 Economist in town — poet's left (6)
- 50 Essayist previously appearing in supplement, one particular issue (7)
- 52 Leading light in astronomy (7)
- 53 Attraction for punters making tracks for France (6,2,3)
- 55 A tour's been organised for coastal community (10)
- 57 Look up perhaps, and goggle, catching sharp swerve, doing U-turn (4,4)
- 59 One has a role to play, wearing deerstalker (3,4)
- 61 SA currency certainly includes cents (5)
- 62 Giving in, cable most reliable conductor? (4,2,5,10)
- 64 Orator, if I got upset, provided stronger justification (1,8)
- 65 Is one Liberal returning after brief time in Georgian town? (7)
- 66 Less likely to have complaints to cope with (9)
- 67 Submarine was first given rust-protection (1,1)
- 68 Rouse the head, offering a biscuit (6,3)
- 69 Part for piano Tchaikovsky had to score (5)

DOWN

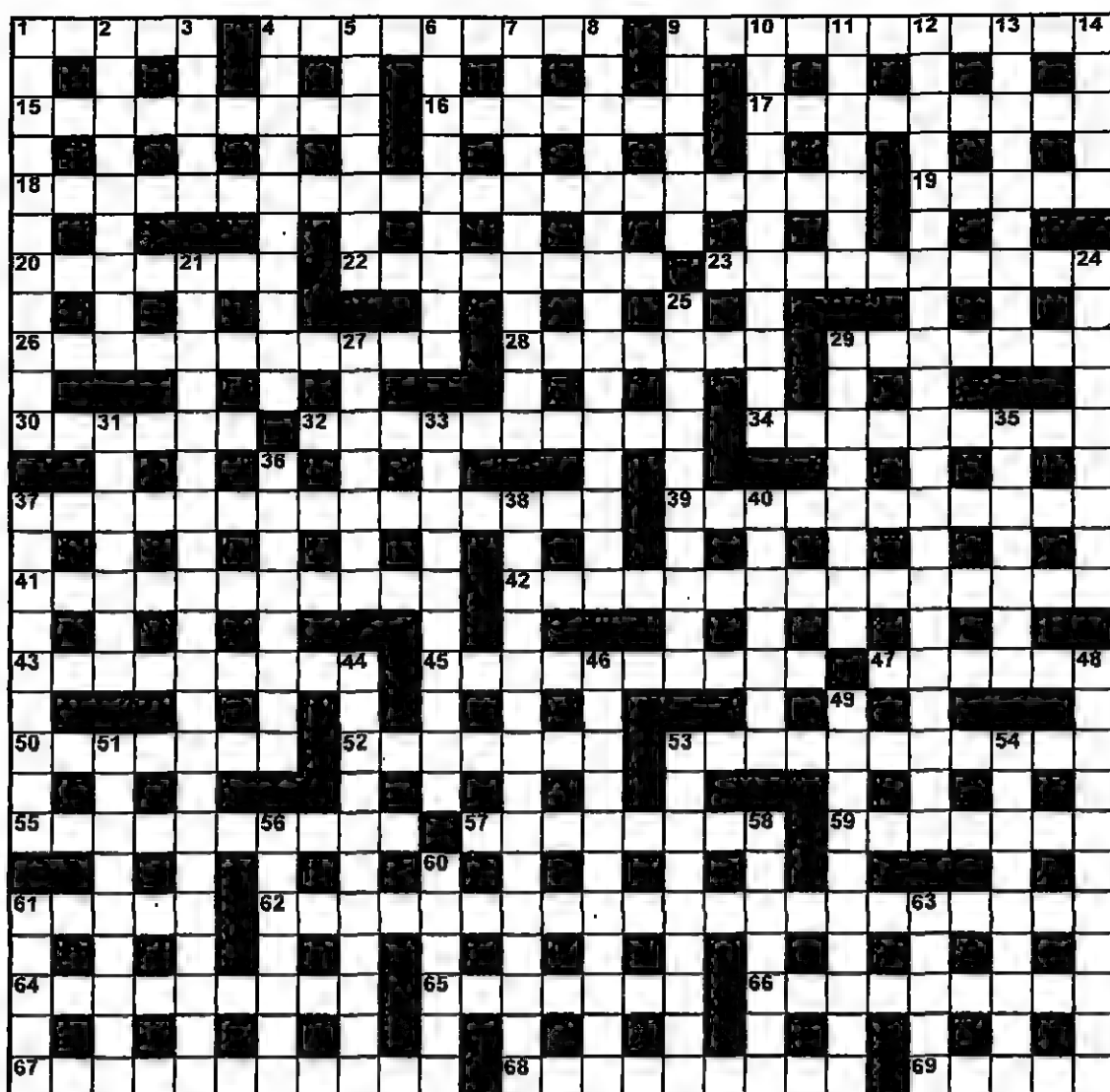
- 1 Socialist's dispute with one replacing a native species? (3,3)
- 2 Agreement pet's secured on lead? (9)
- 3 Composer to gratify fully — one's enthralled (5)
- 4 Trooper, one captured by European, having turned up over old port (10)
- 5 So strong accents are more widespread? (7)
- 6 Go along with what pianist may do (9)
- 7 Remarkable first half for soccer side is almost a turning-point (11)
- 8 Patter I do is endless grist for the mill (15)
- 9 Deceitful work on bridge, start the game holding no trumps (6)
- 10 Peter's contributed to this building's security system (4,7)
- 11 Someone fancying a kipper? (7)
- 12 New Year, 1793? (13,8)
- 13 Target man for abuse? She may (9)
- 14 Mark repeated the old nonsense (2,3)
- 21 Wouldn't this CO have given orders? (13,8)
- 24 One type of decoration individual's put round an evergreen (9)
- 25 Commit a favourite — on a charge (10)
- 27 Beat the opposition in pool tournament (7)
- 29 Tree absorbs first bits of extra special mulch in soil (8)
- 31 Retreat, with urge to make savings (4,3)
- 33 Brodly a man's furred in an unusual way (10)
- 35 From a part of Southern Europe, not originally from Northern Asia (7)
- 36 Force company to take on importing "modified" rice (8)
- 37 One obliged to look to Labour for support (4,5)
- 38 Approval given after change of address (3,5,7)
- 40 Prompt insurance report on fire? (7)
- 44 It's typical of an index to show accelerating growth (11)
- 46 Remark made, giving notice? (11)
- 48 Close examination of cartoons — every one pillorying Right (5,6)
- 49 Type of sculpture — it's set up in cattle wagen (7,3)
- 51 Friction caused by bill in club on the way? (9)
- 53 Seaside ice-cream — last special one in stock (9)
- 54 Extreme right-winger writing about a one-time archbishop (9)
- 56 Set free, getting tight, apparently! (7)
- 58 Political satire needing revision here and now (7)
- 60 Enemy orderly reduced in rank (6)
- 61 Sun gets FA in a mess — in a real mess! (5)
- 63 Make fast, noisy, rocket (5)

EASTER MONDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 219

In our Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution to be opened on Thursday, April 29, 1999.

Entries to Easter Monday Jumbo (219), Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, May 1



NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

Times Two Easter Monday Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, April 12

ACROSS

- 1 Simple boy, in the rhyme (5)
- 4 Involuntary immobility (9)
- 9 Disrupt arrangement (11)
- 15 Building planner (9)
- 16 Enunciating (7)
- 17 Superior (court), dealing with reviews (9)
- 18 Creep-up-on-you game (12,9)
- 19 Bright, striking (5)
- 20 Sewer's protection (7)
- 22 Wild winds (8)
- 23 De Gaulle movement (1940) (4,6)
- 26 Patient submission: departure (11)
- 28 Retaining, staying (7)
- 29 Conspiracy to convict (5,2)
- 30 (Fin) on the back (6)
- 32 Deceitful, faithless (10)
- 34 Method of handling (9)
- 37 Being deliberately unfriendly (4-11)
- 39 Feat (11)
- 41 A substitute (11)
- 42 Guerrillas (to their supporters) (7,8)
- 43 Respiring: Greek vowel mark (9)
- 45 Gold-bearing (10)
- 47 Recites verbatim (6)
- 50 Sportsman (7)
- 52 Eternally young (7)
- 53 Expecting bad outcome (11)
- 55 All-pay-shares party (5,5)
- 57 Small daggers (8)
- 59 Of old E England tribe (7)
- 61 Snapshot (5)
- 62 Show great clumsiness (2,3,7,3,6)
- 64 State bordering Belize, Honduras (9)
- 65 Salad plant: coffee substitute (7)
- 66 Making of clothes (9)
- 67 Union representative (4,7)
- 68 Baby birds (9)
- 69 Constructed (5)

DOWN

- 1 Killed (for food) (11)
- 2 Body-motion science (9)
- 3 Water spirit (5)
- 4 Astounding (10)
- 5 Toothed wheel, prevents reversal (7)
- 6 Member of City company (9)
- 7 Haughty, inflexible (5,6)
- 8 Unintended remark (4,2,3,6)
- 9 Absorb: summary (6)
- 10 Panic at public appearance (5,6)
- 11 Sharp reply (7)
- 12 Effectively completed (3,4,3,3,8)
- 13 (Done) ahead of time (2,7)
- 14 Make correction (5)
- 21 Not ideal offering, but thanks (7,4,2,8)
- 24 Liver disease (9)
- 25 One giving emergency attention (5-5)
- 27 Floating Arctic sheet (3,4)
- 29 Distracted, madly excited (8)
- 31 Failure to maintain improvement (7)
- 33 Opponent of tariffs (4,6)
- 35 World's highest peak (7)
- 36 Sticking together (8)
- 37 Stiff paper (9)
- 38 The views of those qualified to know (8,7)
- 40 Sweets: hypocrites (7)
- 44 Mexico's second city (11)
- 46 Angler's equipment (7,4)
- 48 Clairvoyance (6,5)
- 49 Careless, random (attempts) (3-3-4)
- 51 Tricky situation (3,6)
- 53 Representation (9)
- 54 Three joint rulers (esp. ancient Rome) (9)
- 56 Chest wall (3,4)
- 58 Unlustrous (7)
- 60 Unruffled (6)
- 61 Young attendants (5)
- 63 Thermonuclear weapon (1-4)

Court of Appeal

Noise at date of nuisance notice

SFI Group plc (formerly Surrey Free Inns plc) v Gosport Borough Council

Regina v Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ex parte Cataldi

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment March 29]

In considering the validity of a noise abatement notice served by a local authority under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, justices and the crown court on appeal were required to consider the facts at the time the notice was served and not at the time of the appeal.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by SFI Group plc against the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Mann) (The Times February 13, 1998; [1998] 9 LGR 369) allowing an appeal by case stated by Gosport Borough Council against the decision of Portsmouth Crown Court, on appeal from Farnham Justices, that a notice served upon SFI Group plc, requiring them to abate a statutory nuisance at Oliver's Bar, Gosport, should be quashed on the ground that at the date of the crown court hearing no statutory nuisance existed or was likely to recur.

The court also dismissed an appeal by Mr Carlo Cataldi against the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on May 11, 1998 (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Maurice Kay) of his application for judicial review of the decision of Knightsbridge Crown Court, allowing an appeal by Hamersmith and Fulham London Borough Council against the decision of West London Justices to quash a noise abatement notice served by the council in respect of restaurant premises at Casa Carlo, Fulham, on the ground that at the date of the crown court hearing no nuisance existed.

Mr Timothy Straker, QC, for SFI; Mr David Holgate, QC, and Mr Malcolm Gibney for Gosport Borough Council.

Mr Timothy Spencer for Mr Cataldi; Hamersmith and Fulham Borough Council did not appear and was not represented.

SMITH said that the appeals raised a question of some general importance in relation to the enforcement of noise abatement notices served under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 on appeal to the justices and the crown court.

That question was whether, in considering the validity of the notice, the court was required to consider the facts at the time of the service of the notice or at the time that the appeal fell to be determined by the court.

In the present cases two differently constituted Divisional Courts

held that the former was correct. In *Johnson's News of London v Ealing London Borough Council* ([1998] 154 JP 339) Mr Justice Oton held that the latter was the appropriate date.

Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provided:

"(1) Where a local authority is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, or is likely to recur ... (an abatement notice) imposing all or any of the following requirements (a) requiring the abatement of the nuisance or prohibiting or restricting its occurrence or recurrence; (b) requiring the execution of such works, and the taking of such other steps, as may be necessary for any of those purposes; and the notice shall specify the time or times within which the requirements of the notice are to be complied with."

The procedure for appeals under section 80(3) was contained in Schedule 3 to the Act and the Environmental Protection (Statutory Nuisance) Regulations (SI 1995 No 2044).

The procedure under section 80 was quite different from that under the previous regime contained in sections 93 and 94 of the Public Health Act 1936. The proceedings before justices under section 94 of the 1936 Act were not an appeal from the abatement notice. Moreover, the clear wording of section 94(2) and (3) made it plain that the justices had to be satisfied that the

nuisance existed at the time of the hearing before them before they could make a nuisance order.

But section 94(3) protected the local authority in respect of costs of the abatement notice and the complaint in the event that the justices found, on the hearing before them, that the nuisance no longer existed and was not likely to recur: see *Cowenry County Council v Doyle* ([1981] 1 WLR 1325).

His Lordship preferred the reasoning of the express words in the present cases and concluded that *Johnson's News v Ealing* had been wrongly decided.

The section 80 procedure was quite different from that under section 93 and 94 of the 1936 Act. There could be no sensible reason for importing the express words contained in section 94 to the wholly different situation of an appeal under section 80(3). No similar words were used in the relevant provisions of the 1990 Act.

The omission in section 80 of the 1990 Act of any comparable provision to that in section 94(3) of the 1936 Act in relation to costs was striking. That was deliberate, as shown by the retention of such a provision in section 82.

It would be remarkable if Parliament intended to deprive a local authority of the costs of the abatement notice and perhaps a successful hearing before justices on the basis that by the time the matter came to be decided in the crown court the nuisance had abated and was not likely to recur.

Cowenry v Doyle, based on the language of the 1936 Act was plainly correct. It had no bearing on the quite different language of the 1990 Act.

Where an appeal was brought under regulation 32(a) of the 1995 Regulations the justices were concerned to see whether the underlying facts which constituted the nuisance or its likely recurrence existed at the date of the notice.

The notice was not justified if no statutory nuisance existed or was not likely to recur at the date of its service. That was a question of fact to be determined by the justices and they were not bound to accept the subjective view of the local authority inspector.

His Lordship rejected a further argument on behalf of SFI that the notice, which required them to "cease the playing of amplified music at levels which cause a nuisance at neighbouring premises" was invalid because it failed to specify the particular works or steps required to abate the nuisance.

Lord Justice Brooke delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Potter agreed.

Solicitors: Flynn & Partners, Bournemouth; Mr Richard Clayton, Gosport.

Mr Nicholas Dean for the Attorney-General; Mr Ian Unsworth, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the victim of the robbery was the defendant's 95-year-old great grandmother.

Until that offence was committed there had apparently been a perfectly normal and affectionate relationship between them but at about 4.30pm on July 6, 1998, the victim had opened her door to a masked man whom she did not realise was her great grandson.

He pushed her aside and she stumbled and slid to the floor sustaining some bruising. The defendant stole her purse and ran off. He was arrested and eventually admitted that he was the culprit.

Law Report April 5 1999

Modern approach to delay

Frawley v Neill

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 11]

The modern approach to the equitable doctrine of laches, whereby the court would not uphold beneficial rights whose assertion or enforcement had been unreasonably delayed by their claimant, was not to inquire into all the circumstances to see whether they fitted within the principles established in previous cases, but rather to ask whether, broadly considered, the claimant's actions were such as to render it unconscionable for him to be permitted to assert his beneficial rights.

The defendant subsequently moved to Canada and arrangements for the conveyance of the property into the plaintiff's sole name were never completed. The plaintiff himself later moved out of the property and eventually stopped paying the mortgage.

In 1988 the building society took possession and sold the property, paying the surplus proceeds of £84,000 into an account pending resolution of the dispute over beneficial ownership.

The defendant contended that the plaintiff was not entitled to the whole proceeds of sale because of delay or laches, and that the judge erred in granting a declaration in the plaintiff's favour when the plaintiff had neither applied for nor been granted an order for specific performance of the 1975 agreement.

Mr Charles Taylor for the defendant; Mr Timothy Harry for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that on the basis of the general rule set out in *Williams v Greatrex* ([1957] 1 WLR 31) delay and laches would not prevent specific performance being ordered in this case, the agreement having been sufficiently acted upon by the plaintiff and acquiesced in by the defendant to indicate the parties' intention that the plaintiff become sole beneficial owner.

Mr Taylor sought to distinguish that case on its facts and relied instead on *Mills v Hayward* ([1877] 6 Ch D 196, 303, 304), contending that the plaintiff had not shown himself to be "ready, desirous, prompt and eager" in availing himself of the remedy of specific performance; and that his occupation of the property did not constitute part performance of the agreement in accordance with the rule in *Williams v Greatrex*, because he was already in possession and did not have the defendant's acquiescence.

His Lordship disagreed. Unlike the purchaser in *Mills v Hayward*, the plaintiff had actually paid the purchase price and it would be inequitable to deny him specific performance in the circumstances.

But in any event, he did not need to seek specific performance because the agreement had already been performed and the defendant

had become a bare trustee. Nothing further was needed to complete equitable title: it only needed the defendant's signature to complete the legal title. There was no reason why laches or lapse of time should bar the plaintiff's claim.

It was clear that the principles of law applied in *Mills v Hayward* and *Williams v Greatrex* had further evolved within the last 20 years.

A modern approach to laches or acquiescence should not require an exhaustive inquiry into whether the circumstances could fit within the principles established in previous cases.

Instead, a broader approach should be adopted, namely whether it was unconscionable for the party concerned to be permitted to assert his beneficial rights: see *Taylor Fashions Ltd v Liverpool Victoria Trustees Co Ltd* ([1982] QB 133, 151), a case on estoppel by acquiescence; and *Habib Bank Ltd v Habib Bank AG Zurich* ([1981] 1 WLR 1265, 1285) a case on acquiescence and estoppel in relation to passing-off.

It followed that the judge came to the right conclusion and the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Cowling & Co, Fleet; Nelsons, Nottingham.

Perception of duress sufficient

Regina v Cairns

Before Lord Justice Mantell, Mr Justice Gray and Judge Denison, QC

[Judgment February 22]

Where a defendant raised the defence of necessity or duress of circumstance it was sufficient for him to show that he acted as he did because he reasonably perceived a threat of serious physical injury or death but it was not necessary for him to prove that the threat was in fact real.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by John Cairns against his conviction in October 1998 at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court Judge Whitburn, QC and a jury of inflicting grievous bodily harm and dangerous driving, for which he was sentenced respectively to 2½ years and 12 months imprisonment to run concurrently. He was also disqualified for driving for three years.

Mr Robert Smith, QC, for the appellant; Mr John Aitken for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL said that the victim, who had been out with friends and had had far too much to drink, had climbed on to the bonnet of the appellant's car.

The appellant had driven some distance with the victim spread-eagled on the bonnet and had then braked when he came to a speed hump. The victim was dislodged and landed in front of the car.

The appellant drove over him. The victim's spine was fractured and he was sent to hospital.

All that was observed by a group of the victim's friends who, it appeared from their evidence, did not wish to be associated with his conduct and were trying to prevent him behaving in that way, but it might have appeared to the appellant that they were hostile towards him as they followed the car.

The judge directed the jury as to the defence raised of duress of circumstance in accordance with the two-stage test set out by Mr Justice Simon Brown in *R v Martin* ([2000] RTR 63).

First, was the accused, or might he have been, impelled to act as he

did because as a result of what he reasonably believed to be the situation he had good cause to fear that otherwise death or serious physical injury would result, and, second, if so, might a sober person of reasonable firmness, sharing the characteristics of the accused, have responded to that situation by acting as the accused acted?

However, the judge went on to add a further objective test in the following terms: "Was what the defendant did actually necessary to avoid the evil in question?"

Mr Smith submitted that the judge was wrong to use the expression "actually necessary". The question of whether or not there was actually a threat was neither here nor there. Nowhere in the direction suggested in *Martin* did it appear that the threat perceived by the appellant had to have been a real threat.

In their Lordships' judgment, Mr Smith's submission was well founded. The conviction was unsafe and would be quashed.

Solicitors: Kidd & Spoor, Newcastle upon Tyne; CPS, Tyneside.

that the victim of the robbery was the defendant's 95-year-old great grandmother.

Until that offence was committed there had apparently been a perfectly normal and affectionate relationship between them but at about 4.30pm on July 6, 1998, the victim had opened her door to a masked man whom she did not realise was her great grandson.

He pushed her aside and she stumbled and slid to the floor sustaining some bruising. The defendant stole her purse and ran off. He was arrested and eventually admitted that he was the culprit.

The aggravating features of the case were obvious. This was a victim of some considerable age and frailty and those facts were of course known to the defendant. In mitigation was his plea of guilty and his youth; he was 17 at the date of the offence.

The pre-sentence report noted that the defendant had spent three months in custody on remand and would have great difficulty in dealing with a further period in custody.

His grandmother, with whom he lived, was herself a widow and

found life was rather difficult for her without her grandson's aid.

He had always before been kind and considerate to old people and the evidence suggested that he was profoundly remorseful. As soon as she discovered the identity of her attacker, the victim forgave him and made it clear that she did not want her great grandson sent to prison.

In his sentencing observations Judge Clarke explained in great detail his reasons for putting the defendant on probation. He reminded himself accurately about the normal range of sentences in that class of case but took into account the wholly peculiar and unusual circumstances and the fact that the defendant was the principle carer of the family.

In their Lordships' judgment, the relevant principles were clear: the sentence could not depend on the wishes of those most affected by the crime under consideration. Some victims desired revenge, others wanted to exercise mercy and others did not want to be subjected to pressure if their views were to be taken into account.

That did not mean that the victim was to be ignored but the responsibility rested with the sentencing judge.

An essential sentencing consideration was to assess the impact of the particular crime on a particular victim and also, although perhaps rarely, the court was required to consider a refinement of that principle when assessing whether the imposition of a custodial sentence would add to the distress and concern suffered by the victim.

That was a factor to which a court had to pay attention. The weight to be attached to it depended on the crime itself and different facets of the case which the judge had to balance.

The sentencing judge carefully balanced the relevant considerations. Having done so he very properly decided that could be merited and allow the defendant to retain his freedom.

Their Lordships would be profoundly troubled if it was thought that a judge could not temper justice with mercy. The result was a lenient sentence but it was not unduly or improperly lenient.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters

Court of Appeal

Impact on victim relevant to sentence

that the victim of the robbery was the defendant's 95-year-old great grandmother.

Until that offence was committed there had apparently been a perfectly normal and affectionate relationship between them but at about 4.30pm on July 6, 1998, the victim had opened her door to a masked man whom she did not realise was her great grandson.

He pushed her aside and she stumbled and slid to the floor sustaining some bruising. The defendant stole her purse and ran off. He was arrested and eventually admitted that he was the culprit.

The aggravating features of the case were obvious. This was a victim of some considerable age and frailty and those facts were of course known to the defendant. In mitigation was his plea of guilty and his youth; he was 17 at the date of the offence.

The pre-sentence report noted that the defendant had spent three months in custody on remand and would have great difficulty in dealing with a further period in custody.

His grandmother, with whom he lived, was herself a widow and

found life was rather difficult for her without her grandson's aid.

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Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters

Developers end up in ruins and survive

Martin Waller investigates what happens when the builders unearth further clues to our island history

London, like other British cities of any age, is a palimpsest of past cultures and their archaeological remains. Dig down a few feet and you are in another era. Pity the poor property developer, therefore, who comes across a priceless relic from our history in the course of business.

A couple of weeks ago builders on the Spitalfields development north of the City of London came across a stone sarcophagus. This was the last resting place of an unknown but clearly very rich and powerful inhabitant of Roman London and had been lying undisturbed, and for much of the time unknown, for the past 1,800 years.

Michael Bear, chief executive of Spitalfields Development Corporation, which is redeveloping the site, said this discovery, unlike some that developers have stumbled across in the past, was at least portable, so minimising disruption to work on the site, and could simply be moved to the Museum of London.

But there is plenty of history that the corporation is already aware of lying underneath the site. There is St Mary of Spitalfield, a 14th or 15th-century priory originally situated outside the gates of the City walls. This served as a welcome to the City and subsequently as a hospital, so giving the area its name.

"It's quite an important monument and it can't be touched in any shape or form," says Mr Bear. "There's a friction between ourselves and the museum, who would like to take a bit to the surface and show it, and English Heritage, who would like to leave it untouched. Where it's part of the heritage of the development of London they won't let us touch a single brick."

As a result, the development has had to be redesigned around it. Because the priory ruins are below ground and the old maps are not exact, it is hard to know exactly what is down there. The corporation, therefore, has to use investigating trenches to pinpoint the structure's location.

There are, in all, 3,000 different archaeological remains at Spitalfields, including plague pits and Roman graves as well as the priory, and the site is especially rich for being outside the City walls.

"We have allowed the archaeologists in for as long as they need," says Mr Bear. "You always risk finding something interesting — it's a huge risk. When you develop a

piece of ground the cost has to be contained. If you take a nine-month delay on a £30 million site, you are up for £3 million in extra interest payments. Time is money."

"When we bought Spitalfields years and years ago we did a lot of investigating in the archives and we hauled out plans back to the 13th century to get a feel of what was underground. We found more Romans than we ever expected."

In the spectrum of risk, that Roman sarcophagus ranks fairly low. "If you find a Viking ship here, they would almost insist it would be preserved as it lay. And it's not an insurable risk," says Mr Bear.

And what would be the worst-case scenario? "Something like the Globe Theatre. Something of which there's only one in the country, which has immense significance nationally and on which nothing can be built around."

Paul Nuttall, at Ove Arup & Partners, the consulting engineer, is part of the team building a new headquarters for Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, just north of St Paul's Cathedral. He previously worked at Spitalfields.

At the start of the century the Post Office dug a basement at the building and found that, as with so many buildings in and around the City, London's Roman wall ran all the way through. Part of the wall was found to be intact, and of its original height, one foot below the current surface.

The Post Office built a 12m to 14m octagonal visiting chamber where the wall can still be viewed. "It's probably one of the best kept secrets in London, because nobody ever went," says Mr Nuttall.

Three quarters of the site had the wall and other archaeological remains removed; the rest, like St Mary priory, is a scheduled ancient monument, or SAM, and again under the charge of English Heritage.

This has required some extra effort for the builders of the Merrill offices. "We are not building a basement anywhere near the Roman wall, and the piling is going in in a very higgledy-piggledy fashion to stay well away from it," says Mr Nuttall.

One option sometimes favoured by English Heritage is for the developer simply to pour concrete over any remains found, to preserve them utterly, although this is not suitable at the Post Office site. The reasoning is that they can always be dug up in the future, when ana-

lytical techniques have improved further and more can be learnt.

Geoffrey Wainwright is chief archaeologist at English Heritage. He explains: "The logic of that is that they are preserved for the future. No building is permanent — look at the London skyline, which is always changing."

It is not a method that finds favour with Mr Bear at Spitalfields. He prefers to find some way to keep the discovery on show, perhaps by protecting it with a glass wall or other structure, as has been done successfully at a number of sites.

"Then you are actually adding some value as a developer to the heritage," he says. "Where it's enclosed in concrete forever it strikes me as a purist game. But I would say that, wouldn't I?"

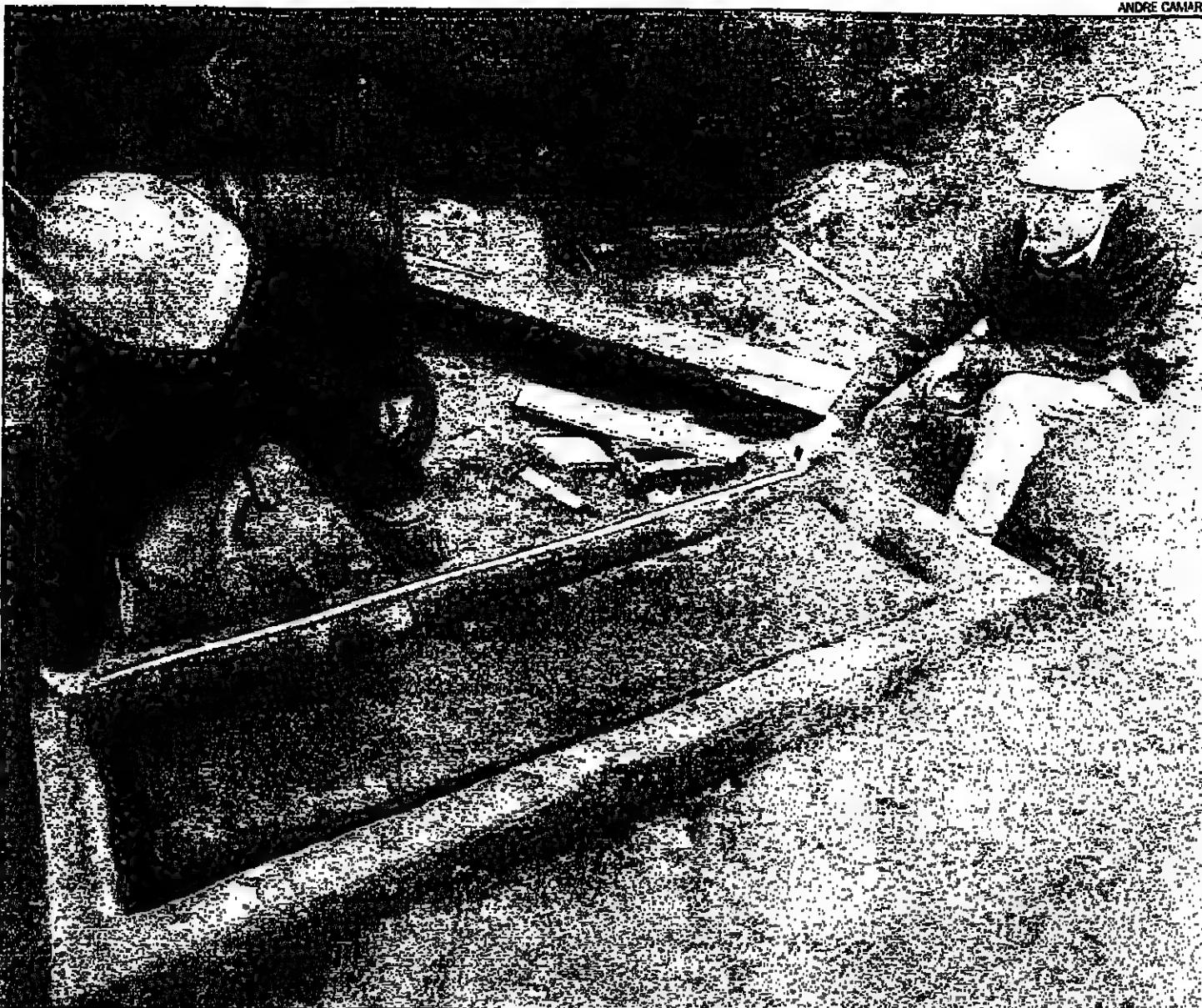
At the Merrill development, the original visiting chamber is being kept, at no little inconvenience. It is in the middle of a delivery yard and is therefore a potential security risk, so separate access to the public must be provided, complete with security cameras.

Mr Nuttall says that because the existence of the wall was known, it could be dealt with in the original planning process and so caused the development no delays. But unexpected discoveries are quite common. When they occur, a degree of so-called "archaeological mitigation" must be provided, and planning consent will depend on whether English Heritage, if the site is a SAM, or the local council is satisfied.

"There's no reason why it should be unexpected," he says. "Unless someone has already dug a basement there, it's almost guaranteed that something will be found. You have got to dig down to the London clay to be sure."

No one knows how many unexpected finds in the past have simply been greeted with a quick look around and a swift blow with a spade rather than letting the developer in for expensive delay. But recent regulations are aimed at cutting down on nasty surprises for those who want to build on the site as well as preserving important relics. Dr Wainwright at English Heritage is largely responsible for these new procedures.

"When an archaeological site is suspected, and that, in our historic cities, means quite a lot of the time, the developer has to show to the



The tomb of one of the wealthiest citizens of Roman London was recently discovered at the site of the Spitalfields development

planning authority how he intends to cope with the site, and there are set procedures which he has to follow. He has to protect the site if that's at all possible. If it's not possible, the site has to be recorded before it's destroyed."

Dr Wainwright says this is based on the principle that "the polluter pays" — the property developer pays for the archaeology before it's destroyed.

As a result, since 1990 the number of archaeological digs in Britain has rocketed from 600 to 4,000 last year.

"My profession over the past decade has been revolutionised. There's been a huge explosion of archaeological activity, and the cost of this across the country is £50 million a year to developers. The procedures are designed to ensure that the work is done in advance of development beginning," he says.

The new regulations stemmed from the discovery in early 1989 of

the remains of the Rose Theatre on the site of a proposed office block in London, just south of Southwark Bridge.

Development was held up by a campaign, led by leading theatrical folk, including Sir Ian McKellen and Dame Judi Dench. There were demonstrations and, at one stage, there was a picket line of actors linking hands to prevent access to the site. It was a developer's nightmare, but Dr Wainwright says it would not have been so if current policy had been in place.

"Developers are able to plan for this. They take on an archaeologist in the same way as they would an architect or a quantity surveyor." Indeed, a number of specialist firms have sprung up to do this kind of work.

"When there are unexpected discoveries and the developer has done everything that's expected of him, then they can turn to us if necessary for financial help to record

that archaeological discovery," he says. This shouldn't happen, and on the whole it doesn't — the archives should show what to expect, or something should be turned in when exploratory trenches are dug. But sometimes something truly unexpected is turned up. Recently the earliest boat known in Western Europe was found in Dover harbour by workmen digging a sewer trench.

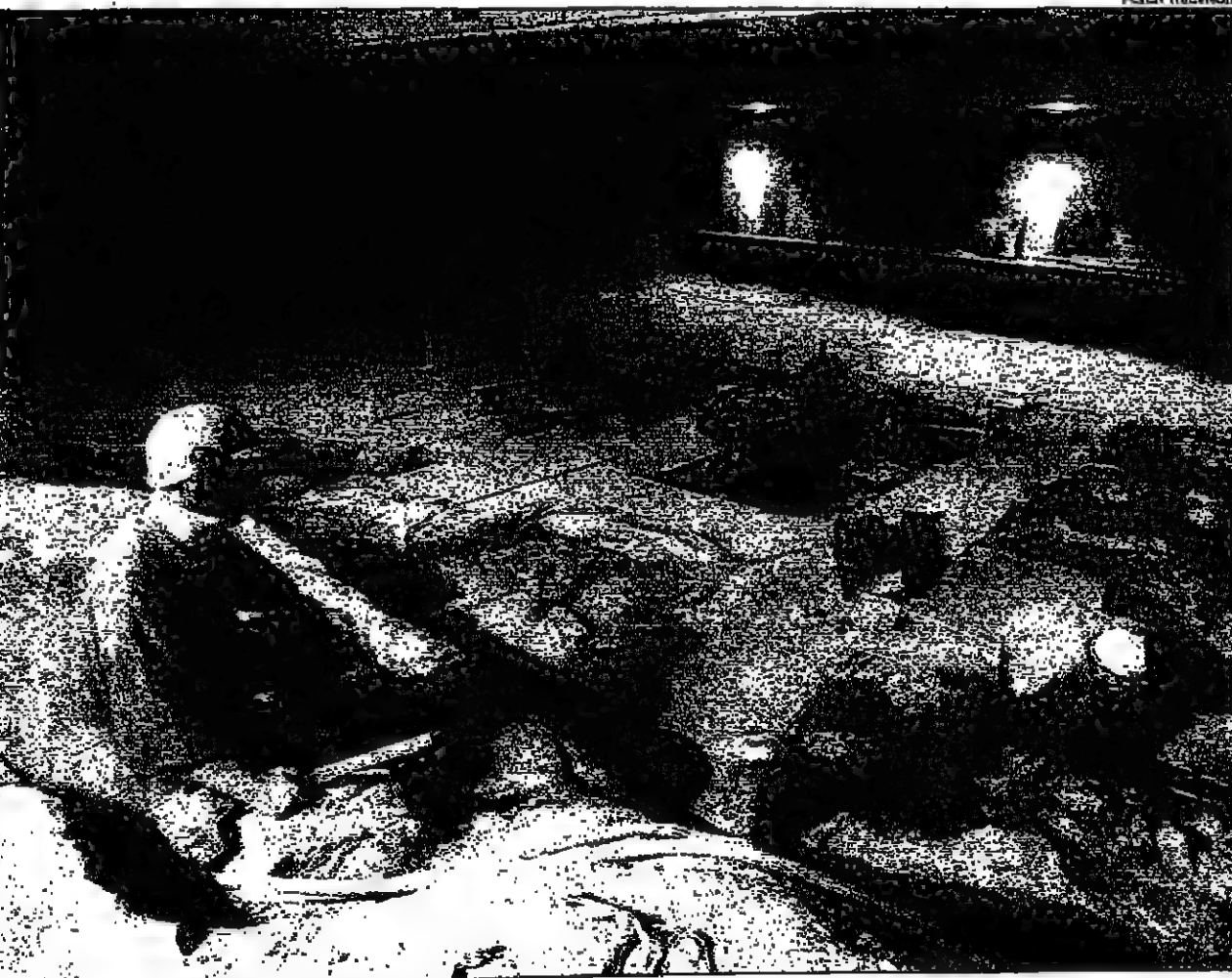
"Nobody could have guessed that it would be there," says Dr Wainwright. "That was a case when we did step in and provide funds to lift and preserve it." The cost was a relatively modest £600,000, but the main problem on this job was time. In the event, for three weeks the contractor worked elsewhere.

At No 1 Poultry, the old Mappin & Webb site, developers found a crossroads from the earliest period when London was a Roman town. Viking remains were found at Cop-

pergate, York, and an excavation was funded by the public purse before development could go ahead. Most recently a Roman villa was discovered outside Swindon, on the site of a planned housing estate. Here, English Heritage will probably buy the land from the developer to preserve the site.

If a newly discovered Globe Theatre is the developer's nightmare, what is the archaeologist's dream? "My dream discovery would be the remains of Britain after the Romans left, which we really know little about, except from very vague literary sources," says Dr Wainwright.

But developers might note that much more modern structures may be of interest to the archaeologists. There is work being done on Second World War defences, for example. And on a recent survey of Cold War defences, evidence of works that have been obsolete for just a decade.



The rules relating to archaeological finds were changed after the discovery of the Rose Theatre ten years ago



The earliest known boat in Western Europe was recently found by workmen digging a sewer in Dover Harbour

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SAMSUNG
ELECTRONICS

Challenge the Limits.

Biotech investor investigated after fines on banks

By CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

OECHE International Advisers, one of the biggest shareholders in British Biotech, is being investigated by US regulators over share trades that led the London Stock Exchange to fine the banks JP Morgan and ABN Amro last week.

The fund manager, based in Boston, started building up a stake in British Biotech at the

end of last year and now holds a little less than 10 per cent of the pharmaceutical company.

The Stock Exchange last week fined ABN £20,000 and JP Morgan £100,000 for accepting an order for shares that also requested a movement in the share price. The fine was for market misconduct. The previous biggest fine, at £350,000, was levied

against JP Morgan in 1997, for market manipulation.

British Biotech could not confirm last week that it was the share concerned. However, investigators would not necessarily contact the company concerned in a case of this type.

The US Securities & Exchange Commission is believed to have contacted Oechsle about the share trades.

Oechsle, which also has an office in Mayfair, began building its stake last September, when the British Biotech share price was about 40p. By November 2 it held 60.9 million shares. The shares have since fallen to about 16p.

The investment manager, which employs Warren Walker, the boyfriend of Koo Stark, manages money on a discretionary basis for American customers.

ABN Amro has parted company with two employees since the matter came to light. One is Angelo Iannone, formerly based in New York. Morgan Stanley's fine has not led to any staff going. A spokesman said that it had dealt with the matter internally.

The Stock Exchange picked up the abnormal share trades through using its "real time" share monitoring system. Its investigation centred on one share trade carried out by Morgan Stanley in September and a number of trades carried out by ABN Amro in October.

The exchange, which plans to spend about £4.5 million on enhancing its share surveillance system, carries out about 80 investigations a year.

New pensions scandal looms

By ROBERT COLE

A LEADING firm of actuaries has given warning that another pensions scandal could result from the increased use of so-called "defined contribution" (DC) pension arrangements by companies.

Lane Clark & Peacock, the actuarial firm, says that the difficulty of individual employees to work out how much pension income they are likely to get from defined contribution schemes may generate increasing disquiet as more and more people retire on income derived from these arrangements.

Many companies have switched pension arrangements from older-style "final salary" or "defined benefit" schemes to defined contribution or "money purchase" schemes. These newer schemes are less onerous in terms of regulatory compliance and shift much invest-

ment risk from employers to individuals.

A result of the shift has been to make it more difficult for individuals to assess the level of income they will receive from their pension. It creates uncertainty over how much should be saved for retirement.

Michael Cranfield, LC&P partner, said: "DC schemes are set to become the next pensions scandal. However, simply providing fixed projections on a set of prescribed assumptions will not be sufficient and, as the problems with personal pensions have highlighted, may be positively dangerous."

In an effort to combat the confusion, LC&P has developed a computer software program, *Pension Decoder*, which LC&P says will revolutionise the way that DC pensions are explained to pension fund members.



ProVen, which owns the rights to Sooty, aims to maximise merchandising potential

ProVen hopes \$150m fund will be child's play

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

PROVEN Private Equity, the rights and merchandising company that controls the destiny of the TV puppet Sooty, is planning to launch a \$150 million (£93 million) fund in Britain and America this month.

Gordon Power, who spun off the business from Guinness Mahon, is believed to be working on the details of one of the largest funds to concentrate on children's TV characters and merchandising rights.

Apart from Sooty, ProVen has rights through Link Licensing to characters such as Barbie, the doll that is still going strong after 40 years, and Teddies, the successful children's series on ITV.

Link has also developed a range of products for the Natural History Museum and for Lord's Cricket Ground, on behalf of MCC.

ProVen expects an international bank to invest some \$15 million of its own money in the fund and to invest a further \$35 million on behalf of clients. Standard Life and United News & Media are also expected to be approached.

Children's programmes and associated merchandising are hot properties at the moment, encouraged by the international success of the *Teletubbies* programmes.

The BBC is estimated to have made £23 million from the series so far, even though the lucrative US rights were retained by Rag Doll, the independent production company behind the *Teletubbies*.

In the US, children's television advertising totals about \$900 million a year. However, the merchandising market is worth more than \$17 billion.

FCI helps China to lift bamboo curtain

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

A SMALL British company is aiming to lift the bamboo curtain, which has until now concealed reliable information on the Chinese economy.

It is the first time that the information, which was previously treated as highly classified by the Chinese Government, has been made available to the international financial community.

However, with doubts growing about the health of the Chinese economy, the Government has been convinced that it must become more transparent if it is to encourage further foreign investment.

Data for January and February this year suggest that foreign investment has slipped by nearly 10 per cent from the same period last year.

The relationship between FCI and the Chinese Government, which has taken five years to develop, has been cemented with Moftec taking a 25 per cent stake in FCI. Moftec has complete control over the licensing of joint ventures and supervises all trade activities between China and the rest of the world.

Sir Barry Jowett, chairman of FCI, said: "This is the first time China has fully opened the door on trade information. The potential for business in China is greater than ever and access to information is vital if this potential is to be realised."

The database lists nearly 140,000 foreign-backed enterprises that are already operating in China for the period until the end of 1997. The aim is to produce regular updates to ensure that the information is of maximum use.

FCI is hopeful that the venture will prove merely the first step in opening up traditionally opaque Chinese financial information to the rest of the world. The company is already working on collecting details of indigenous Chinese companies in a number of important corporate sectors. In the medium term, it also hopes to bring details of key Chinese economic statistics to the international financial sector.

The CD-Rom is being produced with the support of Marshall Publishing, a subsidiary of stock market-listed MediaKey, which is best known for its training videos produced in conjunction with John Cleese.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

PEDALFER

(b) A soil in which there is no layer of accumulated calcium carbonate, but in which oxides of iron and aluminium have tended to accumulate (generally acidic and characteristic of humid climates). A portmanteau composed of *ped-* (aluminium) + *fer-* (iron) the Latin for iron. "These ideas were accepted in the USA, and the concepts of pedalfer and podocal added: pedalfer are leached soils in humid areas where aluminium and iron accumulate in the B horizon."

RINCEAU

(c) An elaborate foliated spiral or scroll pattern. The French word. "We have added grace and beauty to the whole, by a mixture of grotesque stucco, and painted ornaments, together with the flowing rinceau with its fanciful figures and winding foliage."

SALSA

(a) A variety of sauce served with meat. The Spanish word. "What sort of a stew is it? Let me smell and taste the salsa!"

ORIAL

(a) A wild sheep, a subspecies of *Ovis orientalis*, having a reddish coat and long, curved horns, found in India and other parts of central Asia. The Punjabi *urial*. "The foot-hills to the north and west are still the haunts of orial sheep."

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

1 Rd7+! Kd7? 2 Qxe6+ and White forces a quick mate, e.g. 2... Kc7 3 Qe7+ Kg8 4 Bb7+ Kh8 5 Qf6+ Kxh7 6 Rf7+ Kg8 7 Qg7 checkmate.

Reliant plans foreign foray

By ADAM JONES

RELIANT, the tiny carmaker best known for the Robin three-wheeler, as featured in BBC's *Only Fools and Horses*, is to take on more staff as part of its expansion into the import and distribution of other niche vehicles.

Reliant, which was bought out of administration in 1996, is about to bring foreign cars into the UK for sale for the first time in its 64-year history.

The first import to go on sale alongside the Robin range, which has just been revamped, will be the Ligier Ambra, a "microcar" that is 3ft smaller than the Mini and designed to appeal to commuters. It will go on sale this month or next at about £7,000. UK drivers need only a motorcycle licence for the vehicle, which has a maximum



Reliant, maker of the Robin, is to import niche vehicles

speed of 45mph. Reliant expects to sell up to 1,500 this year.

The group will also start selling the Piaggio Apé, a three-wheeler made in Italy, boasting motorcycle handle-

bars and a top speed of about 35mph. Prices will start at about £3,000, plus VAT, and it should go on sale in June.

The most exotic import, however, will be a cut-price sports car made by San Engineering

& Locomotive, an Indian company that is better known for making trains.

Its San Storm coupé and the San Streak convertible will be significantly cheaper than Western sports cars, with a top speed of 100mph and French styling.

The convertible is likely to sell for just £8,000. Both vehicles are likely to be on sale within five months. Sales of between 800 and 1,000 are expected this year.

Doug Jeffrey, of Reliant, said that new staff will be needed in sales, customer support and other areas, adding to the 60 already employed by the company. He would not say exactly how many will be recruited, but the workforce will be significantly increased.

Reliant is majority-owned by Kevin Leech, a financier based in Jersey.

EXCHANGE RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.61	2.43
Austria Sch.	21.44	19.78
Belgium Fr.	63.11	55.15
Canada C\$	0.6321	0.6319
Denmark Kr.	11.64	10.75
Finland Mk.	5.94	5.65
France Fr.	6.55	6.35
Germany DM	3.088	2.926
Greece Dr.	513	472
Hong Kong \$	13.25	12.05
India Rupee	47.8	43.8
Indonesia Rp.	1745.3	1245.3
Ireland P.	1.2243	1.1353
Israel Sh.	6.82	6.38
Italy Lit.	3052	2815
Japan Yen	206.65	199.02
Malta Lm.	0.671	0.612
Netherlands Gld.	3.464	3.199
New Zealand \$	3.13	2.89
Norway Kr.	13.00	12.06
Portugal Esc.	310.34	288.31
S. Africa Rd.	10.50	9.94
Spain Ptas.	236.64	236.85
Sweden Kr.	13.76	12.91
Switzerland Fr.	2.527	2.309
Turkey Liras	617989	576913
USA \$	1.709	1.566

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar	1.6050 (-0.0161)
Euro	0.6737 (+0.0116)
Exchange Index	102.2 (-1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	3838.8 (+91.5)
FTSE 100	6333.0 (+193.8)
New York Dow Jones	9832.51 (+10.27)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	16327.56 (+311.37)

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998 High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price	Wtd %	Yld %	P/E
118	89	2.40 10 Gp	1	...	...	...
118	89	12.30 AFA Systems	37	+ 4	8.5	...
96	91	12.10 AMCO Corp	94	- 1	7.7	...
127	189	1.17 AIT Corp	7	...	...	...
250	171	41.40 Access Plus	245	- 1	2.6	...
47	44	5.87 Aerial Group	64	...	...	...
4	4	1.13 Aeronautics	1	...	...	...
84	66	30.80 Aethermalt & B	69	+	2.3	17.7
34	24	11.40 Alcatel	32	+ 5	...	...
130	102	6.77 Ambrosian Pub Co	75	+	...	13.9
87	86	32.30 Anglo Siam Oil	89	...	...	...
100	53	2.90 Anglo-Walsh	1	...	...	...
72	41	34.20 Anirban	43	- 15	4.3	...
87	62	15.70 Artech	77	...	6.2	32.2
65	65	4.22 Aron Resources	65	...	...	...
5	5	6.63 Archer Dedicated	1	...	...	...
547	350	2.62 Arctic Risk	545	+ 47	0.3	...
57	52	4.56 Astor Oil	6	...	2.4	49.1
8	8	10.60 Atlantic Caspian	6	- 1	...	...
340	175	93.90 BATH Adv Comm	301	- 16	1.0	...
91	52	11.80 BCD Technologies	63	+	1.3	19.0
102	130	27.60 BCD	175	+ 21	...	...
1	1	0.92 Bakery Services	1	...	...	...
2	2	4.25 Bechtel	2	...	...	...
3	3	1.87 Belden Corp	3	...	...	...
26	34	5.36 Bickerton	35	...	11.8	33.2
55	48	0.78 Biliam	49	...	12.5	8.9
18	18	1.91 Bilton Strates	1	...	...	15.4
1	1	7.08 Birlan Int'l	1	...	...	...
40	32	21.50 Birmingham City	41	...	6.1	...
112	3	1.16 Biscuits Corp	3	...	4.5	...
30	30	12.70 Bond Int'l Soft	30	+ 2	22.7	...
315	305	2.13 Business Lines	305	...	3.1	13.2
13	10	5.62 Buxton Hops	13	...	5.2	7.3
68	68	19.20 Buxton Hops	68	...	...	...
10	4	0.62 Buxton Int'l	4	...	...	...
8	8	0.03 Buxton Int'l Wts	8	...	...	...
162	122	19.30 C&B Holdings	162	+ 10	2.7	11.9
100	80	6.07 C & B Packaging	62	- 3	...	...
72	72	3.19 C&B Packaging	72	...	...	...
225	165	9.50 C&B Packaging	190	- 27	...	14.4
45	45	5.54 Cambridge Int'l	45	...	...	...
6	6	1.58 Cambridge Int'l	6	...	...	...
2	2	0.38 Cambridge Int'l	2	...	...	...
42	42	0.88 Cambridge Int'l Wts	42	...	...	...
39	37	3.79 Cambridge Ship	37	...	...	...
34	34	198.00 Canine	34	...	...	...
4	4	1.87 Canine	4	...	...	...
64	3	2.15 Canine Group	3	...	...	...
99	99	15.60 Canine Int'l	99	...	...	...
49	49	15.60 Canine Int'l	49	...	...	...
18	18	16.00 Canine Int'l Wts	18	...	...	...
68	68	119.00 Canine Int'l Wts	68	...	...	...
24	24	122.00 Canine Int'l Wts	24	...	...	...
184	184	31.00 Canine Int'l Wts	184	...	...	...
39	39	2.32 Canine Int'l Wts	39	...	...	...
110	90	0.99 Canine Int'l Wts	110	...	...	...
14	14	0.99 Canine Int'l Wts	14	...	...	...
277	194	34.30 Canine Int'l Wts	277	...	...	...
212	75	7.13 Canine Int'l Wts	212	...	...	...
15	15	8.81 Canine Int'l Wts	15	...	...	...
33	33	6.86 Canine Int'l Wts	33	...	...	...
149	149	14.50 Canine Int'l Wts	149	...	...	...
1	1	1.50 Canine Int'l Wts	1	...	...	...
113	113	...	113	...	...	...
17	17	...	17	...	...	...
35	35	...	35	...	...	...
170	170	...	170	...	...	...
1	1	...	1	...	...	...
350	350	14.50 Canine Int'l Wts	350	...	...	...

Government seeks more room for commercial radio

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

CHRIS SMITH, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is considering a full audit of the radio spectrum to see whether room can be found for more commercial radio stations.

Further licences could provide a new boost to a sector that is now earning more than £400 million a year from advertising and is the fastest-growing advertising medium.

Mr Smith has ordered a departmental study of the issue after representations from the Radio Authority, the regulatory body for commercial radio, that the BBC was being wasteful of its use of the radio spectrum.

The Radio Authority case is that the BBC could give up some of its existing frequencies without limiting the audience reach of any of its services.

Mr Smith now awaits the results of the departmental study before deciding whether to launch a formal audit of how the radio spectrum is



Smith: departmental study

used in the UK. The issue is important for commercial radio companies because the process of advertising new radio licences has virtually come to an end for existing analogue technology.

Digital radio services will be limited for many years by the number of digital radio receivers in the community.

The question mark over the BBC's use of radio frequencies is just one area where the

activities of the BBC are being challenged by the commercial sector.

Both ITV and the Commercial Radio Companies Association have joined together to insist that the BBC's commercial services should be separated entirely from the BBC's publicly funded operation.

Commercial broadcasters are also calling for BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, to be managed and housed separately and regulated by an independent, external regulator.

The pleas have been submitted as evidence to a panel under the chairmanship of Gayn Davies, the City economist, that is looking into the future funding of the BBC.

Commercial media organisations have long complained that they face unfair competition from the BBC—in particular the advertising of the corporation's commercial products and services on BBC channels.

The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has called for a single economic regulator for the BBC and commercial broadcasters.



Nick Leeson, who had a tumour removed last year, is currently undergoing chemotherapy

July release for Leeson

NICK LEESON, the securities dealer who brought down Barings Bank, will be released from a Singapore jail in July, according to reports in Asian newspapers yesterday (Paul Armstrong writes).

The report said that Leeson, who had a cancerous abdominal tumour removed in August, would be released for good behaviour, rather than for health reasons.

Leeson, 32, was jailed for six-and-a-half years in 1995 after being convicted of fraud. His losing bets on financial markets left Barings, Britain's oldest bank, with a \$1.4 billion debt.

Wong Kan Seng, Singapore's Home Affairs Minister, told the *South China Morning Post*: "Under our prison regulations we don't release a prisoner just because he's sick."

He has to serve his sentence. If he can't survive his sentence in the opinion of the doctors, we will consider giving him a remission."

Leeson is undergoing chemotherapy and is said to have been given a 70 per cent chance of survival.

A film, called *Rogue Trader*, starring Ewan McGregor, is currently being made about Leeson's life.

GEC in talks to buy telecoms firms for £1.5bn

BY MARTIN BARROW

GEC is close to announcing two deals in America and continental Europe worth a total of £1.5 billion that will accelerate its expansion in fast-growing sectors of the telecoms market.

The company, whose managing director is Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, is in talks to buy the networking equipment businesses of First Data Communications, an \$18 billion information services group based in New Jersey. These have been valued at about £1 billion.

Separate talks are under way with Robert Bosch, the German industrial group, about buying its telecoms business, which is worth about £500 million. A deal with Bosch would significantly expand GEC's capability in mobile telephony. GEC is keen to move quickly to refocus the group after January's agreement to sell its

defence electronics arm to British Aerospace for £7 billion. Last month Lord Simpson dipped into GEC's war chest for the acquisition of Reltec, a US manufacturer of cables and switching equipment, for £1.3 billion.

If these two latest deals are completed, GEC will have spent almost £3 billion so far this year, leaving it on course to fully replace the Marconi defence business by substantially increasing investment in telecoms.

Senior GEC executives are running their slide rules over a number of companies in the US, which accounts for about one half of global investment in telecoms equipment and data networking. Another possible target is Fore Systems, based in Pittsburgh, whose switching systems are widely used by Internet companies.

Saudis in talks with US oil companies

THE Oil Minister of Saudi Arabia yesterday met with the presidents of Conoco and Marathon Oil, the two US oil companies, for talks on investment in the kingdom's energy sector (Our City Staff writes).

Ali al-Nuaimi met with Archie Dunham of Conoco and Victor Beghini of Marathon and "discussed opportunities of investments in oil and gas projects" in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting follows an invitation to foreign companies by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz at the end of last year to submit plans for investments in the kingdom's oil and gas sectors.

Almost 20 years after nationalising its oil industry, the world's top oil producer has turned once again to investments from foreign oil firms to compensate for funds it lacks domestically.

But in February, during a visit by Bill Richardson, the US Energy Secretary, Saudi Arabia ruled out foreign investment in oil prospecting or production but said that the kingdom was interested in downstream investments.

TEMPUS

Trackers' pursuit of the big beasts is no substitute for strategy

They are called the "Magic 28" and, no, they are not a group of dissident conjurers. They are 28 of the largest companies quoted on European bourses.

All 28 stocks appear as constituents in three of the leading European stock market indices—the FTSE Eurotop 300, the Euro Stoxx 50 and the MSCI Europe Index.

Such is the power of indexation on fund management strategies today that technical research into index dynamics is of key relevance. If the investment community as a whole chases big stocks, those stocks are likely to rise in value. And if they are going to rise in value, investors want to be in them.

Active managers can and do outperform the index-tracking funds, which, by definition, do little better than average. There is, however, compelling evidence to suggest that any such out-performance is more to do with luck than judgment. Active managers are just as likely to underperform the average.

Active management is also costly, requiring the employment of analysts and strategists. The cost of these additional overheads, an detractor from the performance of an investment portfolio.

It is sometimes said that index tracking is preferable to active management because it takes human error out of stock selection. Detractors say that index tracking is inflexible and cannot be easily adjusted to sudden changes in market conditions. In truth, index tracking concentrates the influence of human judgment on investment strategies because there is so little room to alter

the template, created by humans, in the light of events. Trackers are only as reliable as the constitution governing the index's make-up. Using size to determine index weighting may be a good policy, but it is not infallible.

Fans of trackers maintain that there is no need for flexibility and, true enough, to date there has been no crying need for the flexibility that active managers have. However, this does not mean that leeway will not be needed in the future.

It is to be hoped that the influence of indexation will not become a stranglehold, and that the investment management community will come to realise that owning shares simply because other people own them leads to unsustainable prices.

All being well, it will become apparent that big stocks are overvalued. Then attention will focus on smaller companies, which represent much better value. Unless valuation balance is restored and the influence of indexation is curbed, the bubble will burst.

So much for the theorising. Short term, investors must surely make themselves aware of the existence of the Magic 28, and bring the implications of its existence to bear on portfolio management decisions.

Investors ought also to watch for the emergence of similar groupings. UK companies do not feature in the Magic 28 because the Euro Stoxx 50 includes only euro-denominated shares. However, it cannot be long before other similar overlaps are noticed. In the short term, there may be profits to be made.

ROBERT COLE

THE MAGIC 28

COMPANY	COUNTRY	SECTOR
ABN Amro	Netherlands	Banking
Aegon	Netherlands	Insurance
Ahold	Netherlands	Food
Alcatel	France	Technology
Allianz	Germany	Insurance
AXA	France	Insurance
Bayer	Germany	Chemicals
Carrefour	France	Retail
Daimler-Chrysler	Germany	Automobiles
Deutsche Bank	Germany	Banking
Elf Aquitaine	France	Energy
Endesa	Spain	Utilities
ENI	Italy	Energy
Generali	Italy	Insurance
ING	Netherlands	Financial Services
L'Oréal	France	Consumer
Mannesmann	Germany	Industrial
Philips Electronics	Netherlands	Technology
Rhône-Poulenc	France	Pharmaceuticals
Royal Dutch Petroleum	Netherlands	Energy
RWE	Germany	Utility
Siemens	Germany	Technology
Société Générale	France	Banking
Telecom Italia	Italy	Telecoms
Telefonica	Spain	Telecoms
Unilever NV	Netherlands	Consumer
Veba	Germany	Conglomerate
Vivendi	France	Utility

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES



Win a cottage in Cornwall



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Today *The Times*, in association with the Virgin One account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11. **HOW TO ENTER:** Collect 12 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which appears again tomorrow.

Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published on Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday April 30, 1999. Normal *Times* Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again on Saturday.



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CHANGING TIMES

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Shaking the foundations of firms' Chinese walls

Robert Lea says the legal row involving Prince Jefri may have done a great service to City professionals

The rise and fall of Prince Jefri Bolkiah has made for a right rousing read. On the way up the brother of the Sultan of Brunei made much use of the trappings of the fabulous wealth of his oil-rich family. There was the personal Boeing 747, the luxury yachts, the use of his own hotels, such as the Bel Air in Beverly Hills and the Plaza Athenee in Paris, and his Park Lane club, The Playboy, in London, not to mention the polo matches with the Prince of Wales.

On the way down, however, after falling out with the Sultan, he lost control of the powerful and secretive Brunei Investment Agency and salacious details of his private life made the headlines in the tabloid press during the course of an extraordinary High Court trial.

But out of this tangled web and the destruction of his public reputation, Prince Jefri may have done a great service to the City of London. From his dispute with the Sultan and the ensuing investigation into his chairmanship of the BIA, Prince Jefri entered into a legal row which has defined more clearly what constitutes a professional conflict of interest and how firms and financial institutions should manage such perceived or actual conflicts.

The BIA is the agency that manages the money, external assets and investments of the Government of Brunei. Its auditors are KPMG, the international firm of accountants, which since 1983 with additional consultancy advice has put in about 10,000 hours a year in chargeable time. It has been a massive contract for KPMG which has enjoyed what has been called a "long and close working relationship" with the BIA, led by its engagement partner, Peter Harrison.

Prince Jefri, the third and youngest of the Sultan's brothers, was a favourite of the potentate, having previously been Minister of Finance. That was until March 1998, when Prince Jefri swiftly fell from grace, was removed as chairman of the BIA and lost control of companies under his aegis under emergency decree by the Brunei Government.

Prior to this, the relationship that Prince Jefri had with KPMG led him to appoint the firm to help out with a complex legal battle with two London-based business intermediaries, Bob and Rafi Manoukian. Over a period of 18 months, 12 KPMG partners, 81 senior staff and 75 other KPMG professionals were involved in investigations on behalf of Prince Jefri under the leadership of partner Adam Bates. The work, codenamed Project Lucy, earned the firm £4.6 million in fees over the course of the 18 months, which ended last spring when the Manoukian case came to court. It was swiftly settled, but not before Prince Jefri's private peccadilloes had been exposed.

By last June the Sultan had ordered an investigation of the BIA's affairs. Mr Harrison, the lead audit partner, was summoned to look into the transfer of funds going in and out of the BIA. A month later the BIA summoned John Ellison, a senior KPMG forensic partner, along with Mr Harrison and Michael Fowle, a senior executive of the firm, to investigate the series of asset withdrawals and "special transfers".

KPMG set up the investigation, codenamed Project Gemma, but only after they had put in place special confidentiality arrangements with separate project rooms and computer servers and employing only staff who had been vetted specially by KPMG's solicitors. Over the space of two months the KPMG team on this investigation put in 7,500 chargeable hours.

However, in September Prince Jefri was in court again, this time seeking to prevent the Gemma investigation for the BIA from continuing on the basis that KPMG, through its previous work for him, had access to "extensive confidential information" on



Prince Jefri entered a legal dispute that has defined more clearly what is a conflict of interest

him. He argued that he had neither been informed by KPMG of its investigation for the BIA, nor had his consent been sought.

It was on this basis that an injunction was granted on September 15 to stop the Gemma investigation. That injunction, however, was turned down on appeal when Lord Justice Woolf, accepting the lengths to which KPMG had gone to put up Chinese walls, concluded that a continuing injunction "would create unjustified impediments in the way large international firms conduct their business".

However, in one of the speediest cases in modern legal history, a week before Christmas, the House of Lords overturned the judgment of the Court of Appeal. Lord Justice Millett stated that information pertaining to KPMG's "Lucy" investigation on behalf of Prince Jefri would be relevant to the investigations on "Gemma" for the BIA in a situation where the BIA's interests were clearly adverse to those of Prince Jefri. KPMG was barred from continuing to act because a conflict existed even though the prince was a former KPMG client.

Jeremy Cole, a litigator, and Nigel Read, a corporate lawyer, are partners in Lovell White Durrant, which advised Prince Jefri, and are as close as any to the case. They explained their take on it.

"KPMG had erected an *ad hoc* Chinese wall to manage their conflict. They claimed it was effective because by the very nature of the business

they and their staff were experienced and trained in the need to manage information obtained from a competing commercial interest.

"The House of Lords concluded that this was not enough. It is one thing to separate the insolvency, tax, audit and forensic departments and erect Chinese walls between them. But it is quite another matter to try to erect an *ad hoc* Chinese wall within the same department.

"The teams would have rotating membership involving far more personnel than were working on the project at any one time. Individuals might

what we will see is compliance departments becoming even more active in their role of identifying potential conflicts before they occur. What we will have to see is larger and more active compliance teams who become active in managing the client relationship.

"What is plain is that you cannot have a situation where the adviser has to resign halfway through a deal because the compliance department has belatedly found a damaging conflict of interest."

On the coalface the view is slightly different. A compliance officer of a much-merged big City institution, which declined

to be named,

said: "The ruling is certainly putting the cat among the pigeons. It has been hard enough handling the conflicts because of the way our firm has evolved. There is a very big likelihood that the firm could be giving M&A advice to a client, while at the same time providing the finance and at the same time having an interest on the private client side as well.

"Put on the layer that any one of these functions could be being handled from London, New York or a main European office and you realise the extent of the problem.

"On the one hand, it may be difficult to know what various people are up to, and on the other hand, even if the Chinese walls exist, geographically or operationally, it is still a people business in which people talk. This ruling just highlights the potential problems."

What some big City institutions are hinting at is that com-

pliance departments over time will have to be manned by more and different types of people. In the past, compliance has been seen as a quasi-legal department. The argument now is that the compliance department needs people with market experience and knowledge.

What this means is converting current fee-earning professionals into compliance officers. While this may hold horrors for some fee earners, there are others — not least those with young families — who for lifestyle reasons will prefer the more regulated hours of the compliance department to the 4am deal doing of those at the sharper end.

The stark facts remain, however, that clients are under a twofold threat: first, that advisers will not always see that what they are doing presents a conflict; and secondly, that there are always ways in which the walls can be breached. As one professional close to the KPMG case observed: "What we had here is KPMG partners given the option of coming on to a very big job — partners who have to have one eye on their annual fee billings targets.

"There was obviously a potential problem here, but a business decision was taken. It was an area that had never been tested and the Court of Appeal agreed that what KPMG had done was correct. They had gone to extraordinary lengths to secure the Chinese walls. It is just that in the view of the Law Lords these walls were not — potentially — secure enough."

He added: "A key potential problem, as with major assignments in general, was that some people working on the case were very junior. It is here where there is potential for slippage. These people are junior, but they are far from stupid. In fact, in many cases, these will be highly motivated, very intelligent graduates, the type of people who when they are doing the photocopying read the information. The problem is they may not have the experience or the judgement which prevents them from talking to colleagues about what they have seen.

"The problem with Chinese walls is not how high you can construct them but whether people can get underneath them."

KPMG is saying little about the case. It is taking counsel's opinion on what it means for the firm's internal systems though, privately, its argument is that the effects are not as dire as some lawyers would argue.

According to Lovell White Durrant, the bottom line for professional advisers is: "In the event of a conflict, either don't act for the client or get consent from the client."

To many in the City, conflicts of interest are still a matter of judgment and something in which the City prides itself on managing well.

Legally, however, the Law Lords have now ruled that the right of the individual to have confidence in the confidentiality of their information is uppermost, superseding the previous reasoning of the Court of Appeal, which took the commercial view that conflicts of interest do happen but that big firms can manage these situations.

The real bottom line, however, is something much more tangible. KPMG was caught bang to rights, advising in a situation when it should have questioned more closely whether it should have been. For all its assignments of millions of pounds in fees. After deducting the costs of unsuccessfully defending in the courts its right to act, one can safely assume that KPMG remains soundly in profit on the case.

One may wonder that while fees are there to be earned and the profit motive remains one can equally assume that professional advisers will continue to test the law on what defines a conflict of interest.

A soap star on song

Martine McCutcheon: This is My Moment (ITV, 6.30pm (not Scotland))

Anybody still mourning Tiffany from *EastEnders* may find this upbeat film about the actress who crossed the role suitable therapy. Or perhaps the contrast between the whining and victimised Tiff and the spirited, positive-attitude Martine might interfere with the necessary suspension of disbelief next time they visit Walford. Following the actress, now an aspiring (and it must be said, better-than-average) singer, over a three-month period from the last days on *EastEnders*, it is essentially a puff for her first record release.

The Man BBC1, 8.30pm

Lenny Henry is the chap in question, a Midlands travel agent and part-time rhythm 'n' blues band singer who is convinced that he will soon hit the big time. The Oscar-nominated Marianne Jean-Baptiste plays his broody partner. Adrian Edmondson, Morwenna Banks and John Sessions are among Henry's fellow comedians playing (fairly) straight in this comedy drama by Jon Carter. The music and bolts of the plot are unconvincing, but as the story of our hero's reluctant journey to maturity and fulfilment — via humiliation and abandonment, naturally — it is convincingly played, with Henry harnessing his puppyish eagerness to please to create a genuinely rounded and at times unsympathetic character.

Moby Dick BBC2, 8pm

By the same point-on-glass animation team that produced the Oscar-nominated *Canterbury Tales*, here's an heroically condensed, 30-minute adaptation, by Brian Sibley, of the Herman Melville classic. The images are vivid, sometimes frightening, sometimes charming, and move the tale very smartly along in the hands of the director, Natsuhiko Oizumi. Tim Quince voices Ishmael, our narrator. Rod Stanger provides the gruff tones of Captain Ahab, while Burt Kwouk admirably conveys the stoic attitude of the soothsayer Fedallah.

Just William: The 80th Anniversary Radio 4, 9.45am

One of two programmes today that offer the rare opportunity for parents to stay with Radio 4 without having their holidaying children demanding a switch to some other network (assuming you can get them out of bed). The *Just William* stories by Richard Crompton first appeared in *The Home* magazine 80 years ago and if William and his gang, the Outlaws, would nowadays be more likely to be a genuine rock band rehearsing in William's backroom, the very quaintness adds to the charm. Martin Jarvis has won awards for his interpretations of previous stories and is reading five more each day this week, starting today with the gang's attempts to get an April Fool joke to do something other than rebound on themselves.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

5.00am Kevin Greening 6.00 Chris Moyles 1.00 Scott Mills 4.00 The Official UK Top 40 — The Year So Far 7.00 Larnaq Live, Featuring: A-Ha, Shaz, The Streets 8.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Songs of the Century 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00 The X Factor 8.00 Big Band Special 8.30 Joe Bonomo 9.30 Joe Brown: Let It Rock, New series celebrating the golden age of rock 'n' roll (1/13) 10.30 Richard Ayrton 12.00 Mo'Nique 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 8.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 Midday News 1.00pm Sport on 5, Football: Chelsea take on Leeds United and Coventry City play Southampton. Rugby League: Hull Sharks v Sheffield Eagles. Racing: the Irish National at Fairyhouse, Cheltenham. Fourth Test between West Indies and Australia in Antigua 6.00 Six O'Clock News Extra 7.30 Monday Match, Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur 9.00 Wimbledon. New series. Peter Slater remembers great FA Cup finals 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chelmsford & Sally James 12.00 Lark! Talk Show 1.00pm The Sports Zone 7.00 Under the Pests 8.00 James White 1.00pm Gordon Astley

VIRGIN

6.00am Phil Kennedy 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Steve Power 3.45 Phil Kennedy

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday 10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson 11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedral: Richard Baker Investigates: Canterbury Cathedral 12.00 Composer of the Week: Benjamin Britten (1) The Wigmore Hall, London. Thomas Allen, baritone, Malcolm Martineau, piano 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K522); Schubert (Symphony No 9 in C, Great) 4.00 Opera in Action with Gwyneth Key 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty previews *The Red Violin* 7.30 Performances on 3: Endless Parade (Sounding the Century) A concert given last

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor 9.00 Start the Week: Jeremy Paxman 9.45 (PM) Series: Just William See Choice 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 11.00 World's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests 11.00 My Aunt's Diary Journal of the Rev David Davies 11.30 Full Moon New series (1/4) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (PM) News 12.04pm You and Yours 1.00 The World at One with James Cox 1.30 Mastermind General knowledge 2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Five Children and R.E. Nesbit's Isle. See Choice 3.45 This Scintillating Isle Part 66 (1)



Martine McCutcheon trades Walford for New York in *This is My Moment* (ITV, 6.30pm)

Paul Zeno's Turning Tricks Channel 4, 10.40pm

The magician and illusionist Zeno takes to the late-night streets, bars and clubs of London, Manchester, Blackpool and Glasgow for a tour de force demonstration of in-your-face card tricks, illusions and offbeat humour. His skills are as baffling on-screen (and with the benefit of slow-motion replays) as they clearly are in person, even allowing for the inflated state of many of his victims / collaborators. Tony Patrick

Newcastle v Tottenham Hotspur Sky Sports 1, 7pm

Any doubts that Spurs supporters may have had about George Graham's loyalty to the club will have been purged by the Worthington Cup final victory last month. Graham has lightened the team's defence and allowed David Ginola (formerly of Newcastle), to flourish. Newcastle, however, are under-achieving in the Premiership and Rudi Gutli will want to win this match to stake a claim for a European place next autumn and to appease the fans who are becoming impatient at the lack of success. This match will serve as a rehearsal for the FA Cup semi-final later this month. Barry O'Keefe

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Five Children and It Radio 4, 2.15pm

The word "enchanted" is overworked to an annoying degree in relation to stories about children but it surely does apply to this E. Nesbit classic, which evokes balmy summers and magical childhood adventures. The story concerns five children who discover, while playing one day on a beach, a strange and powerful creature who grants wishes, including the gift of flight. The resultant adventures reach into every corner of the imagination, with soaring triumphs taking their place alongside unexpected disasters as the children encounter everything from Red Indians (as they were still known in Nesbit's Edwardian times) to medieval knights on chargers and sinister robbers. Julia McKenzie plays the lead. Peter Barrauld

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Talking Point 7.25 My Country 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Colles: A Health Show 8.30 Eyewitness 9.00 World News 9.05 Record News 9.20 On the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping 9.35 Health Matters 10.00 World News 10.05 Business Class 10.20 Countdown 10.30 Sports Round-Up 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Today 11.45 World Business Report 12.00 Newsweek 12.30pm Pick of the World 1.00 World News 1.05 Outlook 1.45 Sports Round-Up 2.00 Newsweek 3.00 World News 3.05 Health Matters 3.30 Meridian 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Round-Up 4.35 Evening News 4.30 Composer Of the Month 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Insight 6.00 Newsweek 6.30 The Way We Are 6.45 Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 7.15 Britain Today 7.20 Adopting Animals 8.00 World News 8.05 Health Matters 8.30 The Farming World 8.45 On the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping 9.00 Newsweek 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.20 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian 11.00 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 11.30 The U.K. Top Twenty 12.00 World News 12.05am Outlook 12.45 Insight 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.55 My Country 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Westway 2.45 Record News 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Sarah Lucas. The final countdown to this year's Hall of Fame. The top 300 pieces of classical music as voted for by listeners to Classic FM 9.00am Henry Kelly. Continuing the Hall of Fame 11.00am Jane Jones. The top 300 countdown continues 1.00pm John Burt Foster. 3.00pm Simon Simon. More listeners' favourites 5.00pm Jamie Cullum 7.00pm Paul McCartney. The No 1 Hall of Fame for 1998 is revealed. Last year, Bruce's Violin Concerto in G minor took the honours. Will it still be there? 9.00pm Hall of Fame Concert. The top three works from the Classic FM Hall of Fame played in their entirety. Presented by Nicholas Trevelyan 11.00pm Marm at Night. Work down with the sound of ambient music 12.00am Concerto (1) 3.00am Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

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حکومت الامارات

Sophisticated drama, but no real surprises

To experienced viewers of murder stories, it probably stood out like Ronald McDonald at a funeral. After all, the killer is generally somebody we aren't supposed to suspect, like the butler, the milkman or, in this case, the vicar.

The Dark Room (BBC1, Friday and Saturday) called itself a "psychological thriller", implying something more sophisticated and disturbing than a "whodunnit". So when that nice Reverend Simon Harris, who seemed so reasonable, turned out to be the skull-fracturing psycho, seething with repressed rage, it was a bit of a let-down. Yeah, yeah, if you say so.

This was a pity, because the construction of Minette Walters' plot is extremely clever. The heroine, Jinx (unlucky name, unlucky gal) Kingsley (Dervla Kirwan) is badly injured in a road accident while apparently drunk, but has lost all memory of how it happened.

Her best friend and her former fiancé, who were about to run off together, have been found with their heads smashed in. Her father, a self-made millionaire with a tugging past, puts her in a discreet private clinic and tries to control her convalescence in a decidedly menacing way.

Jinx gets flashbacks of gory and sadistic violence and thinks that she may be responsible for it.

Walters neatly counterpoints the police investigation with Jinx's analysis by the psychiatrist Dr Alan Protheroe, and we wait for the two strands to converge. But the "psychological" heart of the thriller appeared to be the disturbingly claustrophobic relationship between Jinx and her father. When this turns out to be another false trail, it rather undermines the point of the psycho-drama.


The production deserves some kind of award, though, for trying so desperately hard to be stylish.

From the strained violin chords and ominous piano to the minimalist interiors, everything screamed "sophistication". All characters were wearing shades — black, or deep dark blue (the new black) or dark grey (the new dark blue) — even the cops and the vicar, who probably had an Armani dog-collar.

Everyone was terse and intense and utterly humourless. After a while (about five minutes, as I recall) this got a trifle wearing. I longed for Inspector Frost to saunter in his anorak and say something sarcastic. But the executives of Brit's BBC are into designer suits and being stylish, and I expect they thought this was the business.

If you wanted an authentic psychological mystery, you would have been better off with In The Footsteps Of Brice Chatwin (BBC2, Saturday and Sunday),

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

another of the three two-parters which straddled the weekend.

Television rarely produces significant or original art, but it can be excellent at paying tribute to it. Nicholas Shakespeare's intriguing and often moving profile of this "difficult", enigmatic writer, based on his recent biography, was as fascinating for what it could not reveal as what it could. Even Chatwin's nearest and

dearest didn't pretend to understand him, although they didn't see that as a problem either. It was all part of the fascination.

There are many possible explanations for Chatwin's chronically itchy feet. He had a massive "maggie" craving for knowledge. He was, since early childhood, fascinated by curios and exotica. Despite his brilliance he was a failure at school. He was extremely close to his mother and above all he was deeply ashamed of his homosexuality and wanted to hide it from the world.

After a while this speculation seems fatuous, and it certainly wasn't the main interest of the programme, which traced the creation of those extraordinary books. It was travel writing, but not as we knew it. Not quite fiction, not quite reportage. Chatwin used the stories of little-known communities as catalysts for a kind of anthropological speculation about

the human condition.

Shakespeare interviewed many of the subjects who appeared in Chatwin's books under changed names, especially in *In Patagonia* and *The Songlines*. Often he embellished, sometimes he falsified, sometimes he photographed them with cold, unflattering accuracy, but mostly they forgave him. It was strangely moving to hear them reading his descriptions of themselves.

Most affecting was his wife Elizabeth, who said that she sometimes felt like a Tuareg slave, minding the oasis, while her master roamed in search of humanity's nomad past. She must have been terribly hurt at times by his neglect and secrecy, but she loved his mind, and she accepted the deal without self-pity or regret.

When he died of AIDS, having pretended it was a rare fungal

infection, still romantically young, he took his innermost thoughts to the grave and left us five of the most distinctive books in modern literature.

Perhaps he will become a source of speculation and legend, like some Ancient British wizard. Part one of *Merlin* (Channel 4, Sunday) didn't bother with any tedious nonsense about truth or authenticity (how could it?). It was just old-fashioned, pyrotechnic knockabout fun.

This was just as well because a lot of the acting was awful. James Earl Jones wasn't bad as the token living rock, but Sam Neill as Merlin was much more wooden. Poor Miranda Richardson (Queen Mab) had to deliver her lines in a grating breathless scream, while Rutger Hauer and Helena Bonham Carter opted for best-quality ham. Never mind, it was worth it for those fairies, buzzing about like dragonflies on crack.

- BBC1**
- 7.00am News Weather (T) (5600834)
- 7.10 CBBC: Postman Pat (5620698) 7.25 Sir Humphrey (5154143) 7.50 Inch High Private Eye (5856389) 8.10 Bots Master (4856379) 8.30 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (5830143) 9.00 Midas Touch (7291768) 9.25 Student Bodies (7294853) 9.55 Teletubbies (7288953)
- 10.20 News Weather (T) (7573476)
- 10.30 Far From Home — Adventures of Yellow Dog (1994) Premiere. A young dog is shipwrecked and forced to survive in a hostile wilderness with only his trusty teddy for company. Directed by Phillip Borge (T) (1957414)
- 11.50 The Magnificent Showman (1995) The heroine of the Oscar-winning musical visits England, where she uncovers a plot to destroy Buckingham Palace. Directed by Ian Toynton (T) (8633785)
- 1.20pm News Weather (T) (3840647)
- 1.35 Neighbours (T) (16452308)
- 2.00 The Really Wild Show Special The plight of wild tigers (T) (51896476)
- 2.25 Mary Poppins (1964) Disney musical fantasy about a nanny with magic powers (with Julie Andrews). Directed by Robert Stevenson (T) (15079476)
- 4.40 Final Score Results (5622688)
- 4.55 News Weather (T) (2523330)
- 4.50 Neighbours (T) (147037)
- 6.05 Get Your Act Together Viewers are invited to vote in the grand final of the talent show (T) (708056)
- 7.00 Easter Floods: A 999 Special How the worst floods in living memory battered the heart of England (T) (617018)
- 7.50 Get Your Act Together Results of the final (T) (253018)
- 8.00 EastEnders Roy's reckless behaviour surprises Pat (T) (9211)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am The Phil Silvers Show (T) (9133650)
- 7.25 FILM: Random Harvest (9549650)
- 9.30 Legends in Light: The Photographs of George Hurrell (75376) 10.30 FILM: It's Always Fair Weather (2048766)
- 12.10pm FILM: Easter Parade (846300)
- 1.50 Grandstands: Touring Cars (6907698)
- 2.35 Around the Grounds (8511322) 2.40 Motorcycling (6459211) 3.05 Swimming (8754124) 3.25 Football Latest (5004143) 3.30 Touring Cars (7787124) 4.20 Football Latest (5038872)
- 4.35 Top Gear Take Two Jeremy Clarkson and Andy Wilman race at high speed in two cars chained together (T) (2267414)
- 4.50 The Magnificent Showman (1995) John Wayne stars as a circus owner searching for the mother of a girl he has raised as his daughter. Moving drama, with Rita Hayworth. Directed by Henry Hathaway (T) (11717143)
- 7.00 Golf 1999 In the week of the US Masters, the BBC football pundit Alan Hansen presents a history of the prestigious annual event (T) (4476)

- HTV**
- 5.30am ITV Morning News (15747)
- 6.00 GMTV (2135124)
- 9.25 CITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (7205669)
- 9.50 The Fantastic Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor (8942495) 10.20 Timmy Towers: The Easter Special (318230)
- 10.45 Percy the Park Keeper (267968)
- 11.15 Bugs Bunny (6653230)
- 11.30 Born Free (1966) True story based on the lives of Joy and George Adamson who won international acclaim for their work with Kenyan lions. Directed by James Hill (T) (1843037)
- 1.15pm ITV Lunchtime News (T) (38409834)
- 1.20 HTV Weather (9389634)
- 1.30 Shortland Street (45766)
- 2.00 Carnival of the Animals Animated musical adventure (T) (1843476)
- 2.35 Stay Tuned (1992) Zany comedy about a couple who buy a TV set from a diabolical salesman and get sucked into a nightmare entertainment channel run by the Devil. With John Ritter. Directed by Peter Hyams (T) (4258747)
- 4.05 The Electric Horseman (1979) Sentimental drama about a washed-up former rodeo star who saves a mistreated thoroughbred horse and rides it cross-country. With Robert Redford. Directed by Sydney Pollack (T) (2065330)
- 6.15 HTV News and Weather (T) (198553)
- 6.20 TV Evening News (T) (64478)
- 6.25 HTV Crimewatchers (35040)
- 6.30 [CHOICE] Martine McCutcheon: This Is My Moment The former EastEnders offers viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the making of her debut single (T) (13650)
- 7.30 Coronation Street (T) (308)
- 8.00 Neighbours from Hell (T) (1678)

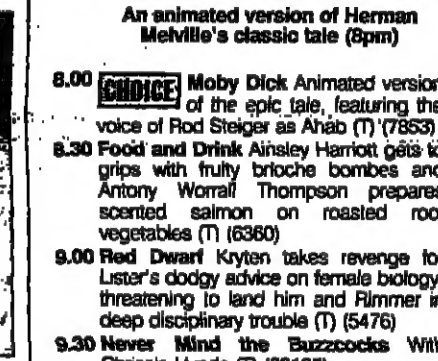
- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
- 1.20pm Central Weather (9389834)
- 1.30 Campus Cops Captain Hingle worries he may lose his job (45766)
- 6.15-6.20 Central News (198553)
- 11.30-11.35 Central News Weather (172853)
- 1.35am The Killing Mind (TVM 1991) An FBI-trained police officer uses her 20-year-old murder case. Psychological thriller, starring Stephanie Zimbalist. Directed by Michael Ray Rhodes (969490)
- 3.20 World Football (6215525)
- 3.50 Central Jobfinder '99 (6776933)
- 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9896490)
- As HTV West except:**
- 1.20pm Westcountry Weather (9389834)
- 1.30-2.00 Cartoon Time (45766)
- 6.15-6.20 Westcountry News Weather (198553)
- 11.30-11.35 Westcountry News Weather (172853)
- As HTV West except:**
- 6.15-6.20pm Meridian News Weather (198553)
- 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (470563)
- 11.30-11.35 Meridian News Weather (172853)
- 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (46438)
- As HTV West except:**
- 6.15-6.20pm Anglia News and Weather (198553)
- 11.29 Anglia Air Watch (380650)
- 11.30-11.35 Anglia News and Weather (172853)
- As Granada except:**
- 6.15-6.20pm Border News and Weather (198553)
- 11.30-11.35 Border News and Weather (172853)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.45am The Magic Roundabout (2465360)
- 5.50 Antipalooza (2455501)
- 5.55 Sesame Street (5231555)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (31124)
- 8.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (3442230)
- 9.05 Saved by the Bell (7283747)
- 9.30 Sam and Max (33921)
- 10.00 Earle, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (87922)
- 10.30 CatDog (3226476)
- 11.45 The Big Breakfast (2575124)
- 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (32673)
- 12.30pm Bewitched (T) (44037)
- 1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (34211)
- 1.30 Twisters (T) (61495)
- 2.30 Racing from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Fairyhouse from Kempton Park: The 2.35 Quail Stakes, 3.05 Magnolia Stakes, 3.40 Coral Rosebery Handicap, Stakes and the 4.10 Travelling Turf Racecourse of the Year Handicap Stakes. From Newcastle: The 2.50 Best Music Metro FM Handicap Stakes and the 3.20 Magic FM Handicap Stakes. From Fairyhouse: The 3.55 Jameson Irish Grand National (34292)
- 4.30 Countdown (T) (7758230)
- 4.55 Montel Williams (T) (9503563)
- 5.30 Pals Reunite Easter Special (T) (89327)
- 6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (766)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (5096785)
- 7.00 WideWorld Part two: How art and science have contributed to our understanding of the human body (T) (2946501)
- 7.30 Milkshake! (2741259)
- 7.35 Dappledawn Farm (T): 5 News Update (4165872)
- 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (T) (2793853)
- 8.25 Witchworld: 5 News Update (3634679)
- 9.00 Ugly Duckling (TVM 1997) Animation based on the famous fairy tale. Directed by David Elvin (2140414)
- 10.30 CHOMGUS (1979) Children's cartoon: A young genius invents a bionic dog designed to be the world's best home-protection device. With the voice of Wesley Eure. Directed by Don Chaffey (4742563)
- 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8948292)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs Roy is released from prison (T) (T): 5 News Update (5886681)
- 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sky kidsnaps Jessica and Jasmine (T) (2945872)
- 1.30 The Roseanne Show The outrageous comedian Roseanne hosts her own show boasting provocative interviews and hot musical acts: 5 News Update (7736132)
- 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2256389)
- 2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap Liverpool Mums, Pets Go Public, and Rob Butler's word game Cryptogram: 5 News Update (8848259)
- 3.30 Bananas (1962) Biblical epic following the life of the thief replaced by Jesus on the Cross. Anthony Quinn and Jack Palance star. Directed by Richard Fleischer (T) (3257308)
- 6.00 5 News Weather Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (6240999)
- 6.30 Family Affairs Benny Delencs Magg's honour (T): 5 News Update (6248211)
- 7.00 Family Affairs Benny Delencs Magg's honour (T) (TVM 1988) A Manhattan yuppie tries to settle down with his married wife in New York, but their marital bliss is soon disturbed by the fish-tailed female's efforts to save a friendly dolphin. Comedy sequel, starring Todd Waring, Amy Yasbeck and Donovan Scott. Directed by Greg Antonson (T) (5374018)
- 8.30 The Tuskegee Airmen (TVM 1995) Second World War drama about the prejudice directed at America's first all-black fighter pilot squadron by fellow servicemen — including their own officers. Starring Laurence Fishburne, John Lithgow and Malcolm-Jamal Warner. Directed by Robert Markowitz (T): 5 News Update (4762327)
- 10.30 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest pop hits (4338143)
- 10.35 Tomcat: Dangerous Desires (TVM 1992) A carer is injected with feline DNA to cure a fatal genetic imbalance, only to suffer terrifying side-effects. Adult thriller, with Richard Gere. Directed by Paul Donovan (8850834)
- 12.25am Live and Dangerous: NHL American Ice Hockey Coverage of the New York Rangers at New Jersey Devils (7448457)
- 5.30 Beastly Britain The grey squirrel (T) (6030235)



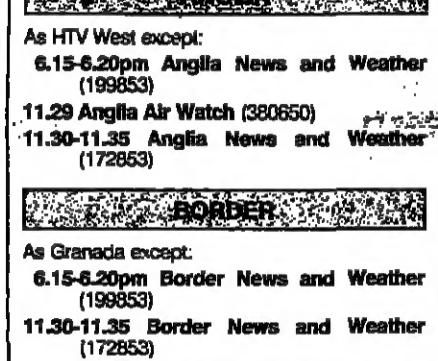
Lenny Henry stars as an ambitious rhythm 'n' blues singer (8.30pm)



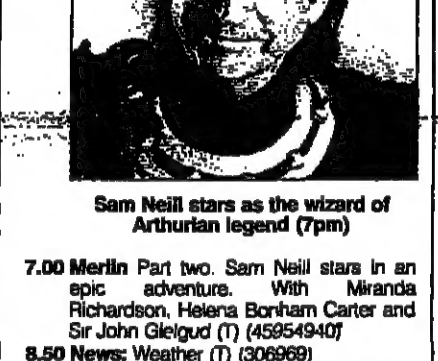
An animated version of Herman Melville's classic tale (8pm)



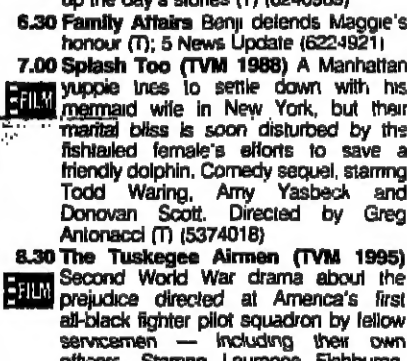
Drama with Katie Ryder Richardson and Joanna Lumley (8.30pm)



Sam Neill stars as the wizard of Arthurian legend (7pm)



Sam Neill stars as the wizard of Arthurian legend (7pm)



Sam Neill stars as the wizard of Arthurian legend (7pm)

- WALES**
- 5.15pm-5.40 News: Wales Today (T) (5622330) 9.50-10.30 The Stereothonics: Commission Fee (5601143) (T) (735501)
- 10.10 The Bay City Rollers — Remember? Profile of the band (T) (735501)
- 10.30 News Weather (T) (45766)
- 10.50 Match of the Day Action from the FA Premiership (T) (7356672)
- 12.00 Four Eyes and Six Guns (TVM 1992) Western comedy, with Judge Reinhold. Directed by Piers Haggard (1693490)
- 1.25am Weather (560419)
- 1.30 BBC News 24 (9141506)

- 8.00 [CHOICE] Moby Dick** Animated version of the epic tale, featuring the voice of Rod Taylor as Ahab (T) (7853)
- 8.30 Food and Drink** Ainsley Harriot gets to grips with fully bric-a-brac bobbies and Anthony Worrall Thompson prepares scintillating salmon on roasted root vegetables (T) (6380)
- 9.00 Red Dwarf** Kryton takes revenge for Lester's dodgy advice on female biology, threatening to land him and Rimmer in deep disciplinary trouble (T) (5476)
- 9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks** With Chrisi Hynde (T) (39105)
- 10.00 Pace (1997)** Premiere. Armed robbers enter a world of deceit and double-cross after the loot from their latest heist is stolen. Gangland thriller, starring Robert Carlyle and Ray Winstone. Directed by Antonia Bird (65668)
- 11.50 Tribe** The rough and ready residents of an Edinburgh council estate and a wily bunch of female Star Trek fans. Last in series (T) (381389)
- 12.00am Animation** on 2 A man's love of football jeopardises his love life (2438167)
- 12.25 Weather** (2435438)
- 12.30 BBC Learning Zone:** Open University: Was Anybody There? (50902) 1.00 Left and Right: Recalling the Thirties (63693) 1.30 Venice and Antwerp — Part One, The Cities Compared (73916) 2.00 Exam Revision: GCSE Botany Revision Science 3: Chemistry (92223) 3.00 Languages: Espana Viva (92457) 5.00 Business and Training: Skills for Work — Improving Communication (3637612) 5.45 Open University Following a Score (2034070) 6.10 Duccio: The Rucellai Madonna (7451322) 6.35 Open Advice — Science Skills (5362419)

- 8.30 Nancherrow** Concluding part of the drama following the fortunes of Coming Home's Carey-Lewis clan in the early 1950s (2/2) (T) (57143)
- 10.30 Lord of the Dance: A South Bank Show Special** Profile of Irish dancer Michael Flatley (T) (851309)
- 11.15 TV Nightly News Weather** (T) (419501)
- 11.30 HTV News and Weather** (T) (172853)
- 11.35 The Lawnmower Man (1992)** A slow-witted gardener is transformed into a computer-generated megalomaniac by a virtual reality experiment. Directed by Brett Leonard (T) (447785)
- 1.30am Cookie (1999)** A streetwise teenager uses the activation of her gangster father, Comedy directed by Falk and Emily Lloyd. Starring by Susan Seidelman (318877)
- 3.10 World Football** (T) (84737186)
- 3.40 You Pay Your Money (1957)** A couple attempt to expose a gang stealing Arab manuscripts. Starring Honor Blackman. Directed by Michael Rogers (394802)
- 4.45 TV Nightline** (25317780)
- 5.00 Coronation Street** (T) (46438)

- Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street** (T) (28261405)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast** (89138259) 9.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (9243450) 9.05 Saved by the Bell (T) (3226740) 9.30 Sam and Max (5582501) 10.00 Earle, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (83350959) 10.30 CatDog (3914099) 10.45 Boy Meets World (T) (1728271) 11.15 Moesha (10072394) 11.45 The Big Breakfast (99405389) 12.00 Dawson's Creek (T) (82631056) 12.55pm Planned Parenthood (T) (15136592) 1.25 Classic Cars (T) (17302389) 1.55 The Magical Making of Merlin (T) (89718211) 2.30 Racing from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Fairyhouse (T) (21261853) 4.30 The Montel Williams Show (T) (99595653) 5.00 Planned Parenthood (41971476) 5.30 Countdown (T) (951431) 6.00 Newsnight 6 (T) (49047563) 6.10 Heno (T) (38833308) 7.00 Popol y Cwm (T) (41984840) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (4665308) 7.45 Porc Pwl (T) (31391230) 8.45 Gtan Chob (T) (26114681) 9.15 Sgorio (T) (99036124) 10.20 Merlin (T) (59094018) 12.00am The Real Merlin (T) (84266171) 1.10 The Long Good Friday (T) (98363457) 1.55 Dhwed

- 8.50 News Weather** (T) (306968)
- 9.00 Roswell (TVM 1994)** Dramatised account of the Army officer Jesse Marcel's 30-year battle against the high-level cover-up of his alleged contact with an alien in the New Mexico desert. Starring Kelly MacLachlan. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (T) (31050018)
- 10.40 [CHOICE] Paul Zenon Turning Tricks** Elaborate set-ups and visual stunts (990259)
- 11.35 Smack the Pony (T)** (303501)
- 12.05am And the Beat Goes On** Ritchie goes a runner on finding out he is not the father of Cathy's baby (2/8) (T) (2538612)
- 1.10 The Siege of Scotland Yard** Media pressure on Sir Paul Condon following the publication of the Macpherson report into the Lawrence Inquiry (T) (1641168)
- 2.15 The Long Good Friday** Last year's peace agreement in Northern Ireland (T) (5448708)
- 2.55 Dispatches (T)** (4350964)
- 3.25 The Client** Reggie defends a man accused of murder (T) (4840148)
- 4.15 The Kid From Spain (1932)** Eddie Cantor plays a singleton with dreams of stardom. Musical directed by Leo McCarey (638709)

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- HISTORY**
- 6.00pm Project Censored: DeHavilland Comet 8.00 The Queen's Coronation 10.00 The World War II to Last Forever 7.00 Poles: I, Witness — Facing the Future
- CARLTON FOOD**
- 8.00am Food Network Daily 8.30 Choux's Kitchen Kitchen 10.00 For Better For Worse 10.30 Simply Baking 11.00 Smokey Airway 11.30 Caribbean Lunch 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm Nordic Nosh 1.00pm Coxon's Kitchen 1.30pm Tessa's Tastybits 2.00pm Lunch with Ed Barnes 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00pm Cooked in a Flash 3.30pm Food for Thought 4.00pm Fresh Expressions 4.30pm Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour 5.00pm Close
- LIVING**
- 6.00am Carl's Cook, Won't Cook 6.30am Animal Rescue 7.00 Professor Bubble 7.25 Callow 7.30 Poles Doi Shorts 7.40 Practical Parenting 8.00am Barney and Friends 8.25pm 2.00pm Tiny and Crew 8.30pm Practical Parenting 9.00pm Speed Bikes 9.30pm Home and Away 10.00 The Jenny Springer Show 10.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 11.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 11.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 12.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 12.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 1.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 1.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 1.50pm The Jenny Springer Show 2.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 2.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 3.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 3.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 4.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 4.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 5.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 5.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 6.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 6.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 7.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 7.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 8.00pm The Jenny Springer Show 8.30pm The Jenny Springer Show 9.00pm The Jenny Springer 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IN RUINS 43

What happens when past and present collide

BUSINESS

JUDGMENT 46

Prince Jefri's case shakes Chinese walls



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY APRIL 5 1999

IT experts fear Budget will spark 'brain drain'

By CHRIS AYRES

COMPUTER EXPERTS are threatening to abandon Britain because of a tax change made in Gordon Brown's Budget last month.

The change, to take effect from April 2000, will force highly paid IT consultants to become staff employees of the companies they work for, instead of charging fees through

tax-efficient "personal service companies".

Financial advisers to the IT industry say that the tax change may create a devastating "brain drain" of IT professionals and do much more harm to the economy than steps by hauliers to move abroad because of fuel duty rises.

IT contractors say the change will undermine the Government's

aim of boosting IT education and of making Britain "the information centre of the world". They argue that Britain already has a damaging shortage of IT professionals, with an estimated 50,000 jobs unfilled, although industry relies on computer experts to fix the millennium bug and to help it to compete with foreign rivals.

Giant Group, which advises

3,500 British IT professionals on financial matters, is one of many industry organisations giving warning that computer specialists will take their skills abroad if the Government presses on with its crackdown on personal service companies. It argues that many other nations with shortages of IT skills already offer big tax discounts to woo foreign IT professionals. In The

Netherlands, foreign IT contractors receive a 35 per cent tax break.

Matthew Brown, chief executive of Giant, said: "We are facing a massive brain drain. Already we've been inundated with responses from individuals who say they'll simply go abroad. This means that their clients will end up having to pay more to keep them."

An Inland Revenue spokesman

said that the changes to personal service company law were not intended to hit IT consultants, but to stop companies taking away the rights of workers by paying them freelance fees when they were effectively full-time employees.

However, a Government statement at the time of the Budget took a harder line. It said: "There has for some time been general concern

about the hiring of individuals through their own service companies so that they can exploit the fiscal advantages offered by a corporate structure."

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.giantgroup.com
www.anglojob.com

Post Office poised for £1.5bn spree

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Post Office intends to invest £1.5 billion in overseas acquisitions over the next few years to counter the growing threat of competition in its domestic market.

The organisation, which spent more than £300 million acquiring German Parcel in January, is keen to extend its influence further, with an increased stake in General Parcel high on the list of possible investments.

The Post Office has inherited German Parcel's 23 per cent stake in General Parcel, an international business with operations in 30 European countries. Neville Bain, Post Office chairman, said: "We would like to control more of that."

The organisation, which owns Royal Mail and Parcel

force, is under pressure to extend its reach into Europe prior to full liberalisation of postal services in 2003. Consolidation is already in full swing and the Post Office is a late starter; the Dutch post office has acquired TNT, while Deutsche Post has taken a stake in DHL.

However, the Post Office's international investment plans are likely to anger consumer groups. Many believe that the Post Office should invest to improve domestic services and keep down the cost of first and second class postage.

The takeover of German Parcel has already aroused controversy, given the Post Office's reluctance to confirm the price and precise means by which it funded the deal. Competitors have complained to the Euro-

pean Commission that the money could not have been raised without the backing of the Royal Mail's letters monopoly.

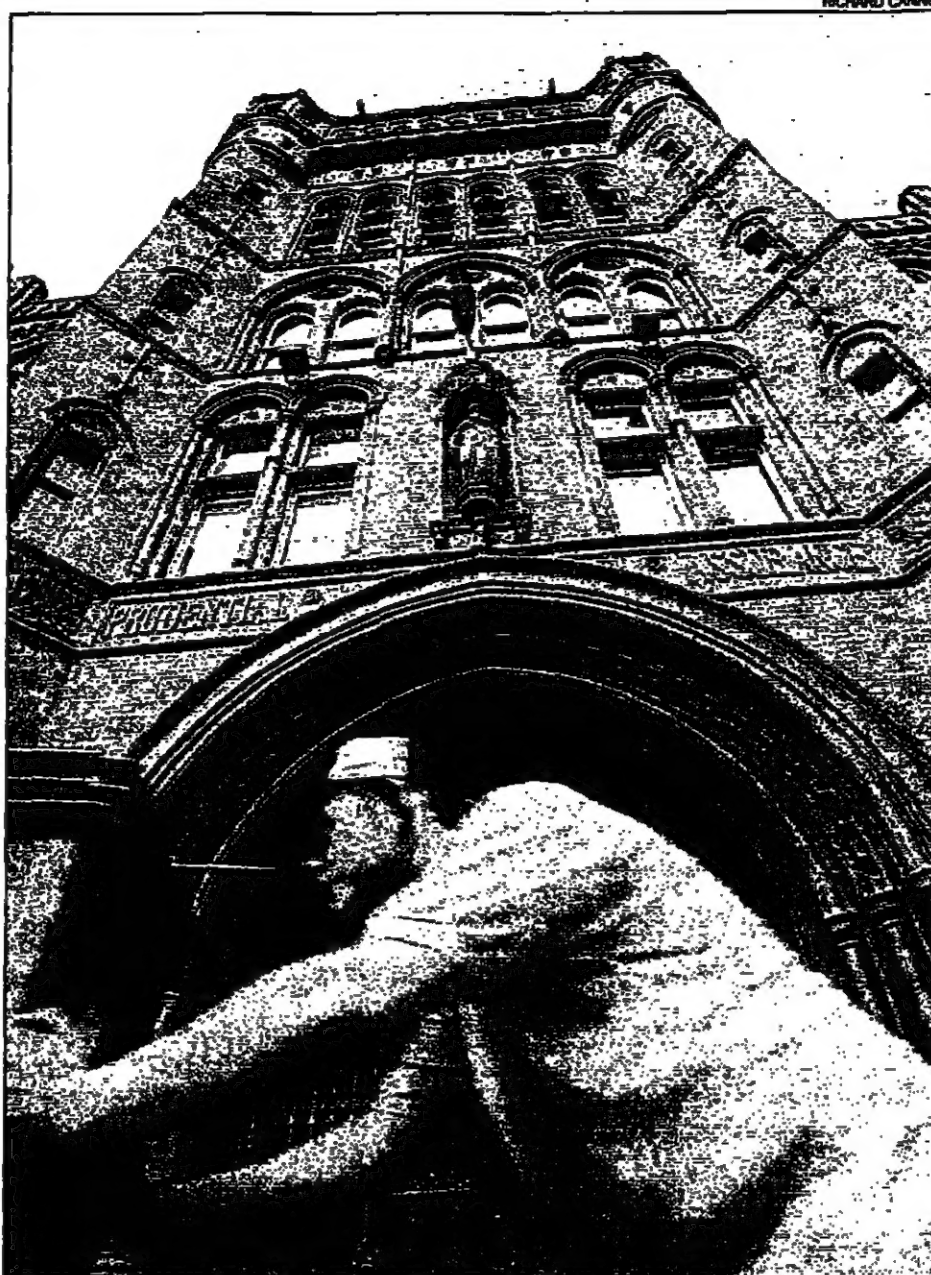
The Post Office states that the German deal was financed with reserves, commercial borrowings and government loans. Mr Bain said: "Geared appropriately, we could finance £1.5 billion in acquisitions. We have eight active targets."

Key to future funding will be the Government White Paper, expected soon, which is likely to recommend greater commercial freedom for the Post Office.

Last year Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, announced that the Post Office would lose its monopoly on delivering letters costing less than 1p and that it would be ruled by a new regulator. In return the Post Office would be able to keep a greater share of its profits, rather than give them to the Treasury, and be allowed to buy companies overseas.

Mr Bain expects further consolidation in the European postal market focused around a small number of players.

Increased competition and the threat of losing valuable commercial business in 2003 is likely to force the smaller European postal services into alliances with companies such as Deutsche Post or Britain's Post Office. In exchange for acting as feeders, they would secure access to a larger network. Mr Bain said: "They need a trading relationship. It would provide one system dealing with production and distribution."



Premium site: Prudential is quitting the head office building it has occupied for 129 years

Prudential on the move

THE removal men moved in yesterday as the Prudential began to vacate its Holborn headquarters in Central London yesterday, a building it has occupied for almost 130 years (Caroline Merrell writes).

The building, specifically built for the UK's biggest in-

urance company in 1870, is to be rented out and about 500 staff are to be relocated in offices close to Cannon Street.

The listed building, which also provides offices for the Royal Bank of Scotland, was completely modernised six years ago at an estimated cost

of £150 million. The Queen reopened the refurbished offices in October 1993.

A spokesman for the group said the Prudential was moving to a more modern office environment, adding that its recent restructuring meant that it no longer needed the space.

Sainsbury labels OFT's work as 'inadequate'

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

THE simmering row between food retailers and the Office of Fair Trading broke out into the open yesterday when J Sainsbury, Britain's second-largest supermarket chain, confirmed reports that it had labelled the OFT's work as "inadequate and inconclusive".

Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's chief executive, has accused the OFT of using "an experimental formula" in trying to establish whether the supermarkets were making excessive profits. The attack was contained in a leaked letter from Mr Adriano to John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading.

Mr Adriano encourages Mr Bridgeman to refer the trading activities of the four big supermarkets to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, saying the MMC would "confirm that competition is alive and well" in the industry.

The leaking of the letter, and Sainsbury's confirmation of its accuracy, was seen as fur-

ther evidence of the damage being inflicted on the supermarket industry's public image by the OFT.

The watchdog, which has been investigating the industry for nine months, is expected to reveal within a fortnight whether it will hand its file to the MMC.

"Your staff have struggled for nine months to assess



Adriano: letter to watchdog

supermarket profitability," Mr Adriano wrote. "That its results should prove inconclusive should come as no surprise."

"Supermarket profits are not excessive, are well in line with profitability generally in the UK and the sector in continental Europe and the US."

News of Mr Adriano's attack comes less than a fortnight after Asda, one of Sainsbury's key competitors, was embroiled in a public row with the OFT over its profit margins.

Asda claimed that the OFT had said it had no problem with Asda's margins, a suggestion which the OFT denied immediately.

The OFT has based its work on a complex formula using figures supplied by Sainsbury, Safeway, Asda and Tesco.

The complexity of the formula is believed to be responsible for the delay in the inquiry, which was due to be completed by Christmas.

Mad dash to beat Pep deadline

HOLIDAYS have been called off for many banking staff today as they work to process the last rush for Peps and Tassas before the midnight deadline (Our City Staff writes).

The Halifax is opening 100 of its 800 bank branches to process the forms. The bank received more than 4,000 applications for tax exempt special savings accounts on Saturday, four times the normal amount. Personal equity plan applications were also 30 per cent higher than normal.

Peps and Tassas are being abolished in favour of individual savings accounts (Isas), which offer less generous tax-free savings allowances.

The rush also comes at a time when many people are looking to make investments before the new tax year starts.

Today Don Clark, managing director of the firm of Torquill Clark, will deliver Pep applications worth more than £2.5 million by helicopter to fund management companies including Perpetual, Gartmore, Fidelity, Jupiter and Invesco.

BA launches travel loan service

By CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to become the first airline to offer travel loans to its customers. The travel loans, from £500 to £15,000, available from tomorrow, will eventually be available from all of the airline's travel shops across the UK.

Initially, the service, British Airways Travel Finance, will be offered from six of the airline's shops around the country.

A spokesman for BA said yesterday that the loan operation was not a prelude

to the launch of a bank, but indicated that further financial initiatives were being considered. Martin George, BA's director of marketing, said: "British Airways is the first airline to pioneer travel loans. This is a unique service which will make planning your flight or holiday easier than before."

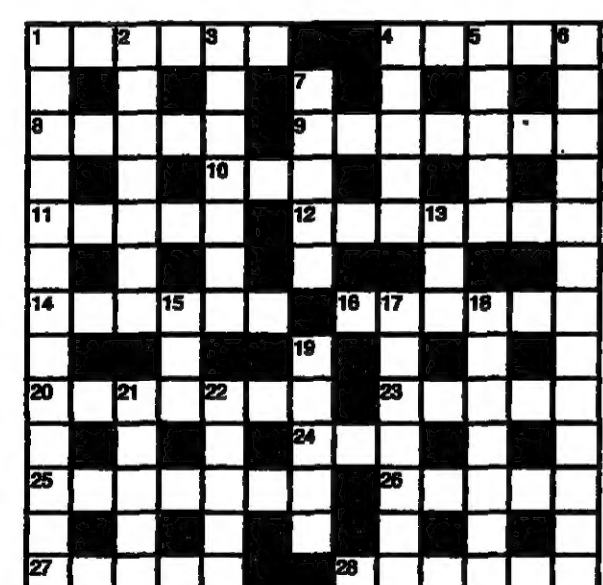
British Airways has about 41 million customers worldwide, including 600,000 executive club members in the UK and 2.5 million throughout the world.

The airline will offer two options for repaying the loan. Under the interest-

free option, borrowers pay a 10 per cent deposit, with the rest of the instalments spread over three months. If they choose to spread the repayments over 12 months or 24 months, the loans attract interest rates of 15.9 per cent or 14.9 per cent, respectively.

The British Airways Financial Services division was launched three years ago. It offers travel insurance with GE Capital Travel Insurance Services, joint branded foreign currency and traveller's cheques through Travellex, and credit charge cards in seven countries.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1683

ACROSS

- 1 Tilted up (gun) ready to fire (6)
- 4 More public: further from centre (5)
- 8 Relax (pressure) (3,2)
- 9 Not worth the same (7)
- 10 Repeat (3)
- 11 Brown/yellow colour, pigment (5)
- 12 Hair cleaner (7)
- 14 Beat soundly: party (slang) (6)
- 16 Eg *Ozymandias* verse form (6)
- 20 Magwitch's daughter (Dickens) (7)
- 23 Archive (micro)film of documents (5)
- 24 Nothing (3)
- 25 One from Tehran (7)
- 26 Ice house (5)
- 27 Simple song (5)
- 28 Caught sight of (arch.) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Desire to get back to Nature (4,2,3,4)
- 2 Baseball fielder: Salinger's was in the Rye (7)
- 3 Powerful ruling woman (7)
- 4 Work as Aida, Tosca (5)
- 5 Winning card (5)
- 6 Traffic regulations (4,2,3,4)
- 7 One given hospitality (5)
- 13 To crew; an island (3)
- 15 Unreturnable serve (3)
- 17 (Computer) not connected to network (3,4)
- 18 Aircraft engine casing (7)
- 19 Shrewd, prudent (5)
- 21 Typical aspect of character (5)
- 22 Non-derry (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1682

ACROSS: 1 Populace 5 Spat 8 Sit up 9 Bastion 11 Ugh
12 Sclerotic 13 Entrap 15 Cirrus 18 Connubial 19 Spa
20 Growing 21 Capri 22 Rusk 23 Feedback
DOWN: 1 Posture 2 Patch 3 Lapis lazuli 4 Cobalt 6 Printer
7 Tunic 10 Strait-laced 14 Tenuous 16 Seaside
17 Mingle 18 Cigar 19 Septa

SOLUTION TO GOOD FRIDAY TIMES TWO JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 Bugbear 5 Petrarch 9 Portamento 16 Bonnie
Prince Charlie 17 Nightie 18 Shortlist 19 Trident
20 Archivist 21 Twain 22 Abhorrent 24 Endearingly
26 Extremist 28 Air-conditioning 32 Bodkin 34 Window sill
35 Brasilia 38 Exude 39 Barricade 41 Theatricals 43 Echo
sunder 44 Sudorific 45 Tenon 46 Lifetime 47 Terracotta
49 Cleave 51 Rogues' galleries 54 Clavicles 57 George Medal
59 Examining 60 Chaff 62 Outwheels 64 Vaccine
66 Essential 67 Tristan 68 Alternative medicine 69 Sugar
daddy 70 Flysheet 71 Theusis

DOWN: 1 Babysitter 2 Gondola 3 Existence 4 Replication
5 Paint the town red 6 Taciturn 7 Archipelago 8 Clare
10 One-handed 11 Tunic 12 Magnifico 13 Notting Hill
Carnival 14 Overly 15 Blithe 23 Turks head 29 Obliterate
30 Gray's Inn 31 Antifreeze 33 Kneset 36 Skittle
37 Reveller 39 Brummagem 40 Asserive 42 Enfranchisement
48 Costa Ricans 49 Charge sheet 50 Usefulness 52 Egg-beater
53 Lady's maid 55 Incentive 56 Live wire 57 Glottis
58 Levity 61 Asinine 63 Genoa 65 Coral

Easter Bank Holiday Concise Jumbo Crossword, page 42

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